By Thornton W. Burgess

IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE

Nothing ever is so bad,
That something worse might not be had.
—Old Mother Nature.

"Cheer up, cheer up, cheer!" sang Welcome Robin from the top of a cedar tree.

Sitting down below was Peter Rabbit. "Just to hear that song at a time like this makes a fellow feel good all over," said he to himself. "Yes, sir, it does so. It is amazing what a note of cheer will do on a dark day, or when one is feeling out of sorts."

Just then Welcome Robin flew down to a little perch just above Peter. "How did you like that?" he asked.

"You should learn to eat berries," said Welcome Robin.

"It was the sweetest sound I've heard all winter," replied Peter, and he meant it. "I wish I could make other folks feel as good as you do. Just hearing you sing makes me feel as if winter is almost over, even though I know it isn't. It has been a hard winter.

"Has it?" asked Welcome Robin.

"You ought to know. You say, you have been here all winter. What with the snow-storms, and the cold, it has been one of the worst winters I can remember. I really don't see how you have lived through it," replied Peter.

"It has been rather bad," admitted Welcome Robin. "But, if one has plenty to eat, and is well sheltered, weather doesn't make so much difference. There has been plenty of cedar berries, and no one but me to eat them. These cedar trees are wonderful, especially very comfortable, even when Rough Brother North Wind was his roughest. It really hasn't been too bad."

"It is very comfortable in here," said Peter. "I wouldn't mind staying here a while myself."

"Why don't you?" asked Welcome Robin.

"You should learn to eat berries," said Welcome Robin.

"Is that all you have had to eat, just the berries from these trees?" Peter wanted to know.

"No," replied Welcome Robin. "In good weather I have gone outside, and I have found other kinds of berries still clinging to the bushes. But mostly I have lived on cedar berries. They are very good eating when one has nothing else. However, I'll be glad of a change."

"What kind of change?" asked Peter.

"Well," said Welcome Robin, "if I could have right now just what I would like most, it would be a big, fat worm that I could pull out of the ground. Yes sir, I would sing all day for a good fat worm. But I'm afraid it's going to be a long time before I'll get one."

Peter made up a face. "Everybody to his own taste," said he.

Welcome Robin chuckled. "Wouldn't you like a nice fat worm, Peter?" he asked.

"No, I wouldn't," said Peter, and the face he made up, and the way he spoke left no doubt that he meant what he said.

"Are there berries enough left to last you to the end of winter?" asked Peter, after a pause.

"There are enough if nobody else comes to get them," said Welcome Robin. Then he flew up high, and sang again "Cheer up, cheer up, cheer!"

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SACRIFICE BIDDING

Sound sacrifice bidding requires (a) extraordinary judgment; (b) intimate knowledge of the opponents' bidding proclivities; and (c) a little luck in both respects, as applied to any particular hand.

West failed on all three counts in the following case:

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

North: ♠ Q J 7 ♥ 5 ♦ Q J 9 8 4 ♣ J 9 5 2

West: ♠ 4 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ A K 10 7 6 3 2 ♣ Q 6

East: ♠ 8 3 ♥ A J 10 9 6 4 2 ♦ 5 ♣ 8 7 4

South: ♠ A K 10 9 6 5 2 ♥ K 7 ♦ — ♣ A K 10 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♠	3 ♦	Dble.	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♥	Pass	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	6 ♥
6 ♠	Dble.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

On the surface South's bidding was inconsistent — he apparently decided to risk the slam only when he was pushed to it by the enemy. Actually, however, South adopted this technique very deliberately, to induce an opposing double at the six-level rather than a non-vulnerable sacrifice in hearts.

It is true that when it came to the play South had a very difficult guess in the club suit, but he discovered that West had started with seven diamonds and he decided that West would not have counted on even one defensive trick in the suit after North showed diamond length with his early penalty double. Thus, South felt that even a card of as questionable value as the club queen would have played some part in West's double of six spades, and instead of finessing, South laid down the ace and king of clubs. That, of course, was the conclusive play.

West was extremely unwise to double six spades. True, he might defeat the contract one trick, but, against that, there was the strong possibility that South would make the contract and collect 1860 points. A seven-heart sacrifice would have been very cheap, relatively speaking — only 700 points.

GET YOUR FREE DIGEST of the Culbertson Point-Count Method. Simply send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the J. C. Winston Co., 1010 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

The most bloodthirsty decree in the history of the world was issued nearly 400 years ago.

Philip II of Spain, sent the Duke of Seva to Holland to supress the heretics there.

To save time, the chief inquisitor issued an order that all the 3,000,000 inhabitants of the country be put to death.

The Spaniards tried to carry out this mad scheme, but the Dutch fought back and finally won their independence.

The post office serving Manhattan and the Bronx dispatches an average of 17,000,000 pieces of mail a day.

In 1802, Joanna Southcourt of London, England, announced that as a result of an inside tip on the day of the millenium, she could offer interested persons a few front seats where they could watch the saints take over the earth.

Did anyone fall for that tripe? Well, only 144,000 tickets were sold at prces ranging from $2.50 for the back seats to $5.00 for the choice ones.

And the millenium did come for the lady salesman who spent the rest of her life living in luxury.

Miss Southcourt's project was foolproof legally, as the law could do nothing about it.

Don't gripe about other folk. Day in and day out you'll have more trouble with yourself than any one you meet.

The largest garage in the world has been opened underground in Chicago at a cost of $8,000,000. It is owned by the city. There is space to park 2,359 cars, and the parking fee is 40 cents for the first 30 minutes and 15 cents for each of the next eight hours.

Canada's national debt may reach the moon before any space ship does.

Strive as we may, we can't escape the consequences of our words or deeds.

Chinese farmers who defy their red bosses are led to an execution ground, where they are shot, without benefit of the law.

A new research technique used by scientists has uncovered a new group of viruses which may help to solve some baffling medical mysteries.

The new method is to keep human tissues alive and to grow hitherto hidden viruses in them.

When further developed scientists hope to be able to put their fingers on the type that causes sore throats, fever and what ails you. Then they will be able to banish such diseases in short order.

FLOATING FAIR

AAELSUND, Norway (CP) —The first floating trade fair in Norway opened here aboard the steamship Brand VI, which will call at ports all along the Norwegian coast between Trondheim and Oslo.

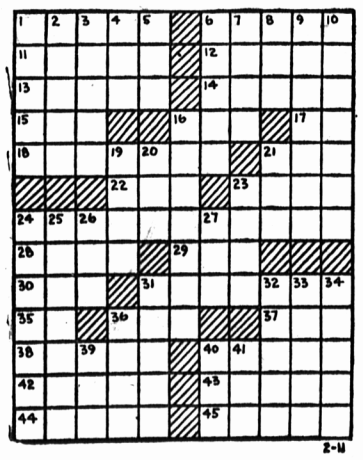
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. European country
6. Famous family of violin-makers
11. Therefore
12. Commenced
13. Seaweeds
14. Quantities of paper
15. Charge for professional services
16. Man's nickname
17. And (L.)
18. Rings on the saddle of a harness
21. Constellation
22. Wine vessel
23. Revolve
24. Cautious
28. Kingdom (SW. Asia)
29. Who wrote "The Raven"?
30. Firmament
31. Drunken sprees
35. Cesium (sym.)
36. Insane
37. Extinct bird (N. Z.)
38. Exudes
40. Gum-yielding acacia
42. Masculine name
43. Rugged mountain crest
44. Clans (Jr.)
45. Pools

DOWN
1. A column
2. Volcano on Martinique
3. Wrath
4. River (So. Am.)
5. Born
6. Hillside dugouts
7. Reward
8. Turkish title
9. An herb (var.)
10. A moment
16. Impressed with a design
19. Framework of bars
20. Ostrich-like bird
21. Simian
23. Hastened
24. Whitefishes
25. Tedious
26. Beam
27. Male descendant
31. Foundations
32. Live coal
33. Way
34. Auctions
36. Dissolve
39. Energy
40. Trick
41. Part of "to be"

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

Yesterday's Answer



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

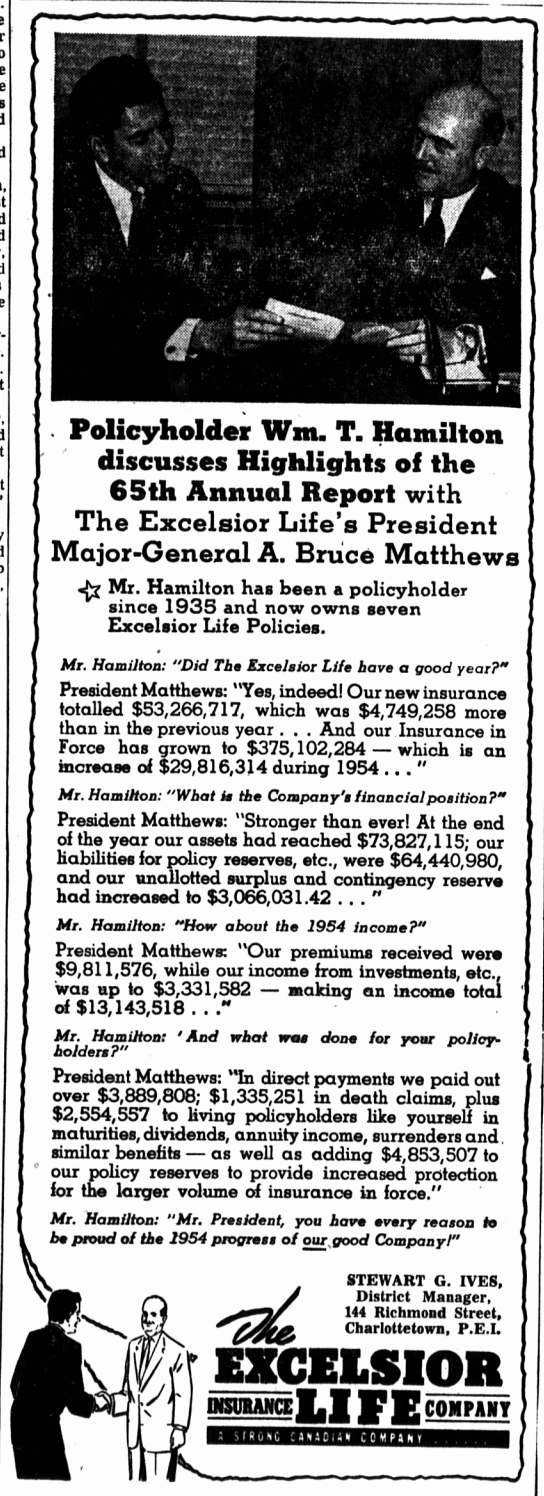
A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A 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

XPWO SO UAO EWDIOZ, UAO OYOVU, UAO SELMF GDO; JDMZ P VEL SOOU—BOYAEBT SEF URYL APT JMDI—VELLPLX.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AND RUSTIC LIFE AND POVERTY GROW BEAUTIFUL BENEATH HIS TOUCH — CAMPBELL.



Policyholder Wm. T. Hamilton discusses Highlights of the 65th Annual Report with The Excelsior Life's President Major-General A. Bruce Matthews

☆ Mr. Hamilton has been a policyholder since 1935 and now owns seven Excelsior Life Policies.

Mr. Hamilton: "Did The Excelsior Life have a good year?"

President Matthews: "Yes, indeed! Our new insurance totalled $53,266,717, which was $4,749,258 more than in the previous year . . . And our Insurance in Force has grown to $375,102,284 — which is an increase of $29,816,314 during 1954 . . ."

Mr. Hamilton: "What is the Company's financial position?"

President Matthews: "Stronger than ever! At the end of the year our assets had reached $73,827,115; our liabilities for policy reserves, etc., were $64,440,980, and our unallotted surplus and contingency reserve had increased to $3,066,031.42 . . ."

Mr. Hamilton: "How about the 1954 income?"

President Matthews: "Our premiums received were $9,811,576, while our income from investments, etc., was up to $3,331,582 — making an income total of $13,143,518 . . ."

Mr. Hamilton: 'And what was done for your policyholders?"

President Matthews: "In direct payments we paid out over $3,889,808; $1,335,251 in death claims, plus $2,554,557 to living policyholders like yourself in maturities, dividends, annuity income, surrenders and similar benefits — as well as adding $4,853,507 to our policy reserves to provide increased protection for the larger volume of insurance in force."

Mr. Hamilton: "Mr. President, you have every reason to be proud of the 1954 progress of our good Company!"

STEWART G. IVES,
District Manager,
144 Richmond Street,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

The EXCELSIOR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
A STRONG CANADIAN COMPANY

VETERANS DANCE
CLOVER CLUB

CLOVER CLUB
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9:30 to 1:30 A. M.
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Tickets on sale at Legion canteen or any member of the executive.
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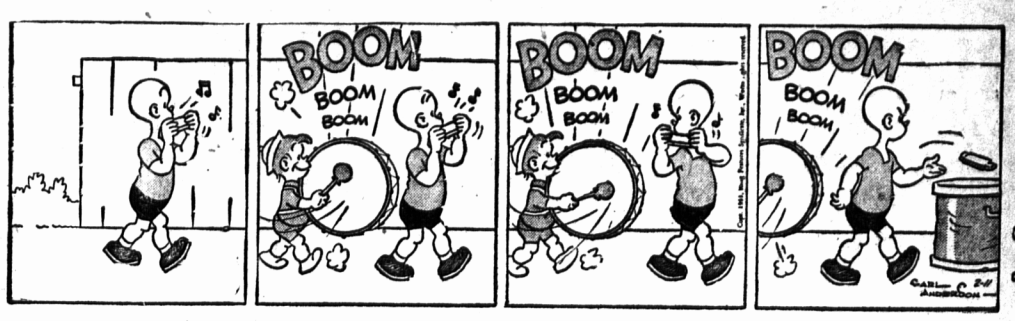
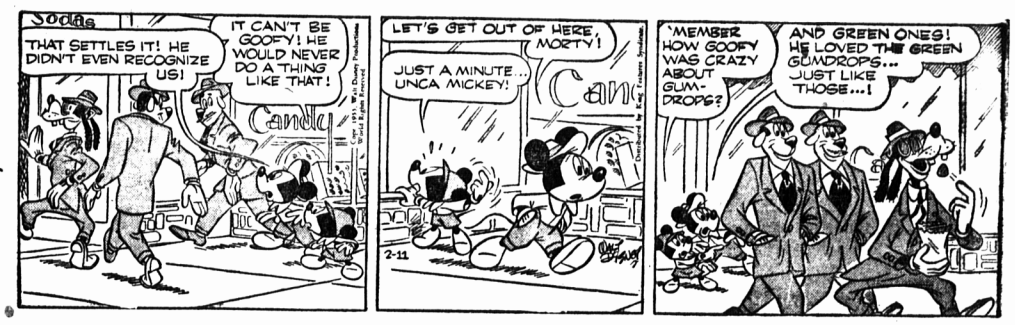
DOMINION SEED HOUSE, Georgetown, Ont.

Henry — By Carl Anderson

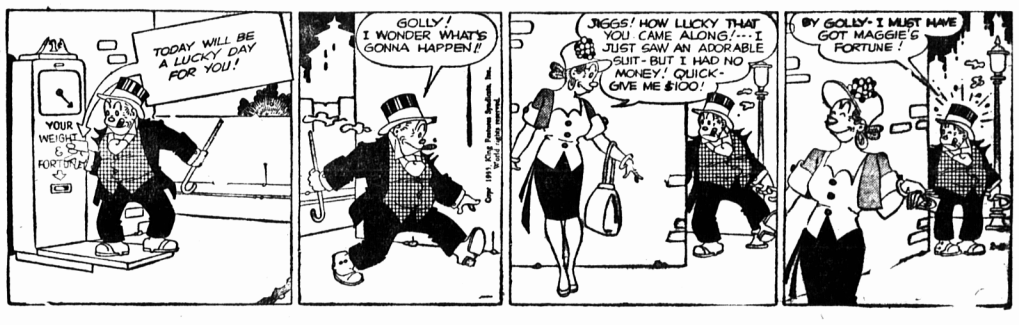


Grandma — by Charles Kuhn

Mickey Mouse — By Walt Disney



Bringing Up Father — By George McManus



Muggs and Skeeter — By Wally Bishop

Etta Kett — By Paul Robinson

Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson

Li'l Abner — By Al Capp

The Lone Ranger — By Fran Striker

Secret Agent X9 — By Mel Graff

Dick Tracy — By Ham Fisher