BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE SIGNS WERE RIGHT

Never little things despise;
They tell much to seeing eyes.
—Old Mother Nature.

Some folks do not believe in signs. Those are folks who have never really learned to use their eyes. There are many signs of many things all about us if we but have eyes to see them, and the knowledge to understand them. Most of Mother Nature's children, the furred and feathered folk, are more or less governed by signs, especially in regard to the weather. This is specially true before bad weather. Most of them know beforehand when bad weather is coming, and prepare accordingly.

Reddy Fox had noticed certain little things, certain little signs, that made him sure bad weather was just ahead. And bad weather in winter is always doubly bad for furred and feathered folks. Reddy and Mrs. Reddy had started out hunting together, but had soon separated. In this way they were more likely to be successful. Reddy was lucky. He had gone over to the open water of the Big River. Sometimes something that he could eat would be washed down and would come out from under the ice. Something did this time. It was a big fish. Something had happened to that fish far up the river, and the running water had brought it down the ice. It floated out in the open water just as Reddy got there.

Reddy's eyes gleamed hungrily

"My dear," said he, "don't you think we better save this fish?"

as he watched that fish floating on the dark water. It was so near, and yet so far. That water was too cold for him to think of swimming. Then, too, the water was running too fast. It was taking that fish down just a little way out. Running along the bank, Reddy followed it. If only something would happen to bring that fish in where he could get it.

Something did happen. The fish drifted into what is called a counter-current. It was a place where there was a sort of whirlpool, and some of the water ran back up along shore, instead of running down. The big fish drifted into this counter-current. It began to come in nearer and nearer to shore. Reddy's mouth watered, and his eyes gleamed. Cold as the water was, he waded out as far as he could. The dead fish drifted nearer and nearer. It looked as if it was going to drift past just out of reach. Then a little twist in the current suddenly swung it in, just near enough for Reddy to grab it.

Now, Reddy was hungry enough to have eaten that fish right then and there. He didn't. He shook himself, then picked up the fish and started straight for the Old Pasture. He hadn't forgotten that Mrs. Reddy was just as hungry as was he, and she might not have had such good luck. She returned shortly after he got back to the Old Pasture. She had had no luck at all. In her eyes was that same eager, hungry look that had been in Reddy's eyes when he first saw that dead fish. She knew that Reddy had brought it home to share with her. Reddy is like that. He is a good mate, an unselfish one. She reached for the fish, and Reddy pulled it away.

"My dear," said he, "don't you think we better save this fish? Bad weather is coming, and we may need this fish more than we do now."

Reluctantly, Mrs. Reddy agreed. So they buried the fish in the snow, and once more started out hunting. The signs were right. The very next day they couldn't go hunting if they wanted to.

Contract Bridge

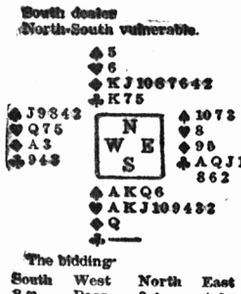
By Josephine Culbertson

SLAM MATHEMATICS

It is usually sound to redouble a slam contract on "percentage." Suppose the contract is six-odd of a major suit, doubled. A successful redouble accounts for 360 extra points, whereas if the contract goes down one, the loss from redoubling is only another 100 points, non-vulnerable, 200 points, vulnerable. Thus, the redoubler is getting good odds.

It goes without saying, however, that these figures apply only when the redoubler has every right to feel that a one-trick set will be the worst that can happen. The question of "percentage" does not even arise in such a case as the following:

South dealer
North-South vulnerable.



The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♦	4 ♣
7 ♥	Dble.	Pass	Pass
Redbl.	Pass	Pass	Pass

West laid down the diamond ace before leading a club, and though South ruffed the second trick and used dummy's singleton trump to salvage his own losing spade, the contract was still defeated two tricks for the not inconsiderable penalty of 1000 points.

It is plain that South's redouble of the seven-heart contract was an act of pure unbridled optimism. South explained his own leap to seven hearts by saying that he had thought North used an ace-showing method over two-bids and therefore had announced the diamond ace, but exactly how that card (even if North had held it) would have kept South from losing a spade and/or a heart trick is difficult to fathom. Even if South himself had had the diamond ace his seven-bid would have been distinctly venturesome, but that gamble paled by comparison with the redouble. When West doubled, it took no great imagination on South's part to realize that he had stepped into trouble — sound opponents do not double grand slams on mere suspicion! — and the only thing left for South was a very meek pass.

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In Memoriam

JOHN B. MacDONALD

In the early morning hours of November 27, 1954, there passed quietly away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lloyd MacPhail, New Dominion, Mr. John B. MacDonald at the age of 67 years. He was born in New Dominion, the eldest son of the late Angus and Maria MacDonald, and in early life went to Western Canada where he resided for many years, eventually returning to the land of his birth. During recent years he had been employed in Charlottetown, until failing health necessitated his retirement from active work.

He is survived by his wife, the former Florence MacNeill of Long Creek, and the following sons and daughters: Mary, Mrs. Elmer MacEachern, Freetown; Neil and Alvin, with the R.C.A.F.; Forbes, in New Brunswick; Helen, Mrs. Lloyd MacPhail; Jackie, foreman with the County Construction Co., Charlottetown; and Betty, also of Charlottetown. Three brothers and one sister, William, Austin, Daniel, and Flora, Mrs. Stewart Knight, all residing in Western Canada, also survive.

The funeral, held from New Dominion United Church, was well attended by many friends and acquaintances. Rev. Harold Brown of Zion Presbyterian Church, assisted by Rev. Dr. Weir conducted the services, and in his address Rev. Mr. Brown spoke comforting words to the bereaved, referring to the quiet, unassuming manner of the deceased, and his devoted and faithful attendance at church, not only on Sunday but at the mid-week prayer service as well.

The hymns sung were: "Rock Of Ages" and "Abide With Me", and a special number the choir rendered, "Lord I'm Coming Home", a favorite of the deceased.

The pall bearers were Messrs. Hector Currie, Bruce MacLean, Allison MacMillan, Gordon MacEwen, Malcolm MacNeill, and Dan Livingstone.

Beautiful floral tributes adorned the casket, and interment took place in the church cemetery, the same in which his father was laid to rest fifty years ago.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our grateful appreciation to Dr. MacLeod, Rev. Harold Brown, Rev. D. Weir, and all neighbours and friends who assisted in any way during our recent sudden bereavement; also sincere thanks to those who sent flowers and messages of sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd MacPhail and family.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Curiosity may be the trail to knowledge, but it skirts a dangerous cliff.

The next time you visit a fish shop take a look at the eyes on the flounders and you will see that every one of these fish have the eyes close together, above the same corner of the mouth. The position of the eyes change as the fish comes to maturity. The left hand eye actually travels around the creature's head, till at last it settles down by the right eye.

William Howard Taft is the only man to have held the offices of both president and Chief Justice of the United States.

The dog whelk has more teeth than any of the fishes, nearly one thousand teeth altogether. Yet strange but true, you can see them only by means of a powerful microscope.

Insects were equipped with boring drills when they first came into the world. Take for example, the horntail and incheworm fly whose drilling tools can bore a hole in the hardest wood almost as fast as a man could using an ordinary brace and bit. The action of the drill is controlled by a set of muscles in the fly's abdomen and as the tiny drill eats its way through the wood, the membrane shrinks until it is entirely relaxed. Then the midget drill is extended to its full length in the timber.

It is interesting to note that the bumble bee's stinger also works like the drill action of an ovippositor, except that it uses a poisonous fluid along with the sting.

Even the cleverest present-day surgeons could learn a lot by studying the vampire bat. The creature's single upper incisors and the canine are triangular in shape and extremely sharp. They can cut open the blood vessels of their victime and lap up the blood from the incision without the latter knowing what has taken place. We have some pretty good surgeons among our medical men but not one of them is such a clever surgeon as the vampire bat.

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Ripley's—Believe It or Not!

DAILY CROSSWORD

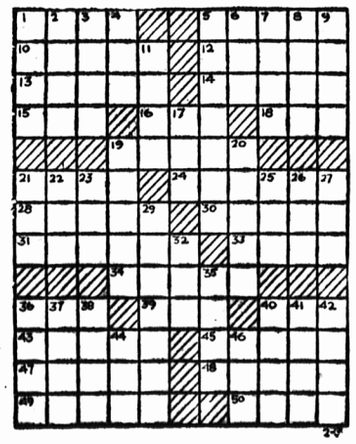
Yesterday's Answer

ACROSS

1. Small marine fish
5. What every merchant likes
10. Poisonous
12. Swarming
13. Dispatch boat
14. Indian mendicant
15. God of pleasure (Egypt.)
16. This boat once sailed the Mediterranean
18. Sprite
19. Dreads
21. Bleat
24. Outdid
28. Around
30. Not sophisticated
31. Sweetened (var.)
33. Observed
34. A sleep vision
36. Leap
39. Ever (poet.)
40. Small explosion
43. Covered with ivy
45. Australian marsupial
47. A dance done in Spain
48. To run over
49. Scoriae of metals
50. Street railway (Eng.)

DOWN

1. Wound with a dagger
2. Sheltered bay
3. The Rome-Berlin —— —
4. God of the underworld
5. Species of crocus
6. A wing
7. Similar
8. Wicked
9. A peasant
11. Fruit of a pinaceous tree
17. Consume
19. Liquid
20. Paroxysm
21. Exclamation
22. Finnish seaport
23. Gained
25. Dessert
26. Adam's wife
27. A lion's home
29. Shipworms
32. River in Scotland
35. Chests
36. Strikes
37. Egg-shaped
38. Pineapple
40. Couple
41. Bulging jar
42. Inside of hand
44. Incite
46. To make choice



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 X is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

D S M P F I L N J C M D S M T R W B, D S L D A G L D D M V S R E; A I V A G L D D M V P R S D S M N M G G I S G N G I S G J K G R W — G S L T M C K M L V M.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PEACE ON EARTH, AND MERCY MILD, GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED—WESLEY.

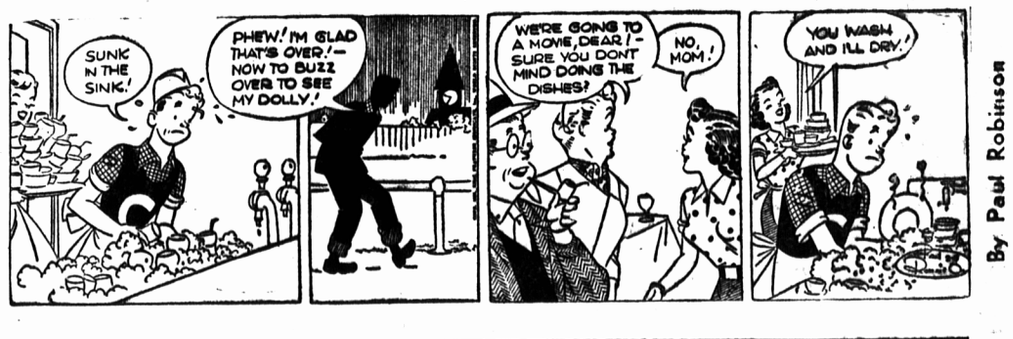
Mickey Mouse — By Walt Disney

Grandma — by Carl Anderson

Bringing Up Father — by George McManus

Muggs and Skeeter — By Wally Bishop

Etta Kett — By Paul Robinson



Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson

The Lone Ranger — By Al Capp

Secret Agent X9 — By Mel Graff

Striker — By Milton Caniff