

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

Nobody Home
A home deserted, none to greet
No emptiness is so complete
—Old Mother Nature.

Little Joe Otter is something of a wanderer. Perhaps this is partly because he is a great fisherman and to catch all the fish he likes to have his most visit many places where fish live. There are not enough fish in any one pool, or small pond, or small brook to keep Little Joe supplied with all he wants to eat. So he does a lot of traveling up and down brooks, along the Big River and around lakes and ponds.

Little Joe had been away from home for a week or more. He had been down to the Big River and had fished up and down for some distance. Now he was on his way back home far up Laughing Brook near the pond of Paddy the Beaver deep in the Green Forest. He and Mrs. Joe had been living in a snug den in a bank beside a deep pool that never froze to the bottom. Little Joe wasn't really little at all. He had been called Little Joe when he was small and the name had stuck. Everybody called him Little Joe when actually he was one of the biggest members of his family, which is the Weasel family.

Little Joe was feeling very good. He had caught several small fish in his way up Laughing Brook and



He had been down to the Big River and had fished up and down for some distance.

he was in high spirits. That means he was feeling very good indeed. In fact, he was feeling really happy. Two or three times he stopped to slide down a tempting slope covered with just enough snow to make sliding good.

Now when Little Joe had left home he had not planned to go away. He just had gone farther and farther until he was so far from home that it didn't seem worth while to go back until he had visited certain places where he hoped to find good fishing. He had left Mrs. Joe at home. Now as he drew near that comfortable den in the high bank beside the deep pool, he wondered if he would find Mrs. Joe there, or if she might be off fishing. When he reached the big pool he dived down to the underwater entrance at the bottom of the deep pool. He swam in and up. The den was quite a little way back from the water and up where it was high and dry. It was an old Beaver home. Beavers sometimes live in dens dug in a bank instead of in a house built out in the water.

Such beavers are called Bank Beavers. What had happened to the one who had dug this fine home in the bank Little Joe didn't know and cared less. He and Mrs. Joe simply took possession when they found it, to be the kind of a den that just suited them.

Now when Little Joe entered the comfortable bedroom he found it empty. There was nobody home. He didn't think much about it. He thought that Mrs. Joe probably was out fishing and would soon be back. He was tired, so he curled up for a nap. He took a long nap. When he awoke he was still alone. That surprised him a little. It must be that Mrs. Joe had gone quite a long way from home for her fishing. He didn't worry about her. He isn't the worrying kind. He would take another nap. So he once more curled up and went to sleep.

When he awoke this time there was still nobody home but himself. He yawned once or twice, then decided he would go out and look for something to eat. He hoped Mrs. Joe hadn't caught all the fish in the nearest pools. He still didn't worry because there was nobody home.

TAGGED WITH TICKET
NEWS BRIEFS
NEW YORK (AP)—Eyes popped when Mack MacDonald, an animal trainer from Texas, took a stroll Sunday with his two-ton pet elephant, Opal, on a busy Manhattan street — 53rd between Broadway and Eighth avenue. MacDonald, in town for a TV show, was tagged with a ticket for obstructing a public sidewalk.

PLAN NEW BUILDING
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—The United States delegation to the United Nations Sunday night announced plans to build its own building, a seven- or eight-story structure costing more than \$3,000,000, across First avenue from the UN headquarters. The building should be ready for occupancy by the autumn of 1958.

DETROIT (AP)—Wage earners in General Motors' United States plants average a record \$102.41 a week for an average 42.5-hour work week in 1955, company officials announced today. Average hourly earnings also were at a record high in 1955 of \$2.41 an hour.

FIND CHEQUES IN DUMP
GALT (CP)—Two boys hunting for stamps of discarded envelopes at the nearby Hesperia municipal dump Sunday found hundreds of letters containing money orders and cheques which police said were probably stolen from Toronto. Nearly all the letters were addressed to a cereal firm offering premiums. One envelope contained cancelled federal government pensions, veteran and air force and superannuation cheques totalling \$6,184.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Taking risks is everyday business for Lloyd's of London, where you can insure anything from an ocean liner to a sunny day. Husbands who insure against being presented with twins and sports promoters who insure against rain are routine patrons at Lloyd's.

The fabulous, world-wide insurance organization originated before 1700 in a London coffee house. The coffee house was owned by Edward Lloyd, hence the name. Traders, shipmasters and merchants congregated there, and sales of ships and prize goods were a regular feature. In 1770 the visitors who dealt in marine insurance formed themselves into the corporation of Lloyd's.

The organization now has its own buildings and does more than 360,000,000 business annually. The secret of the organization's success is spreading the risk among many. There are more than 300 agents or underwriters on hand most of the time. They represent syndicates. Each underwriter is wealthy, as are the 50 or more backers who make up each syndicate. They provide the capital and share in the risk and in the profits.

Lloyd's is a British company, but it does lots of business in Hollywood. The company's popularity in the film capital began one day when the late Carol Lombard came out of a studio, sat down on a messenger's motorcycle, and began absent-mindedly fiddling with the controls. The machine started and carried the star on a wild ride. She wound up in a swimming pool, frightened but uninjured.

But Carol's producer almost went wild as he saw his valuable property bouncing along on the motorcycle. He immediately demanded insurance that would cover Carol and the entire cast in event they became ill or had an accident. Lloyd's was the only company that would take such a financial risk.

Hollywood motion picture company recently insured "all nine lives" of a cat at Lloyd's. However many lives the cat really may have, the animal has been given a policy insuring it against death or injury.

Ben Turpin, slapstick screen comedian of silent picture days, insured his cross eyes for \$80,000. He could make a claim if his eyes turned straight. There are precious few human attributes that haven't been insured at Lloyd's.

Mistigou, the French entertainer who charmed men for many years with her famous legs, had her limbs insured at Lloyd's. Money Woolley insured his beard for 20,000 against destruction by "fire, theft, hail, or tornado." A Paris perfumer took out insurance against the loss of his sense of smell. And whenever there is a disaster in America you can bet Lloyd's are involved.

No doubt you have heard the tale of the man who was out hunting game and was bitten through the boot by a large rattlesnake. Despite treatment, the man died. Three years later, his son put the same boots on and died mysteriously with the symptoms of snakebite. Occasionally, the story is embellished with a third generation — the grandson finds the boots, wears them, and dies with the same strange malady which has all the symptoms of snakebite. The examination of the boots finally revealed that the fang of a rattlesnake was embedded in the leather in such a way that the wearer would be pricked by the point of the fang.

The fact of this story is that although it has been retold from coast to coast with variations in details and number of generations killed, it is pure fantasy. The amount of venom that would remain in such a fang is too small to produce fatal results. Moreover, venom dries very quickly outside the venom glands and soon loses its potency when exposed to air.

Have you ever heard it said that a person who hears poorly is deaf as an adder? A great deal of controversy has been waged on the hearing ability of snakes, whether adders or any other kind. Fact is, all snakes lack a middle ear and they have no eardrum. Despite widespread popular beliefs, snakes cannot hear airborne sounds. That goes too for Indian pythons. But they are sensitive to vibrations in the ground on which they are resting.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Josephine Culbertson

A TACTICAL ERROR

South's bidding in the following hand was not bad academically, but it was evidence of a very poor grasp of tactics.

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 2♣ Dbl. 2♥
2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
3NT Double Redble Pass
Pass Pass

The redoubled three-notrump contract failed by one trick. North took only three clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and one spade. The 200-point loss was not catastrophic, of course, but to this had

to be added what North-South would have collected from the opponents at any doubled contract. The fact that North-South did not collect anything was due, of course, to the serious tactical error South made when he overcalled two hearts with two spades. Granted, South did have a six-card suit, and granted also that he couldn't afford to double two hearts on his own account, but it certainly was not too much to hope that North would be able to "handle" the rescue as well as he could have taken care of two clubs. North's first double was a strong implication that he was short in spades, and if that was the case, he probably had a sound double of all the other suits. Moreover, if he was actually very short in spades, South could not go anywhere in that suit.

Thus, for many different reasons the spade rebid was bad. Worst of all, it deprived North of the opportunity for exercising his real preference—which of course would have been to double two hearts—and forced him into another action that was distinctly second-best.

ANNUAL MEETING
P. E. I. GUERNSEY BREEDERS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 8 P.M.
AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

Out Our Way

By J. R. Williams



Our Boarding House

Major Hoople



Bringin' Up Father

By George McManus



Secret Agent X9

By George McManus



Li'l Abner

By Elmer F. Kennedy



Grandma

By Charles Kuhn



Mickey Mouse

By Walt Disney



Henry

By Carl Anderson



Mugs and Skeeter

By Wally Bishop



Tilly The Toilet

By Bob Gustafson



Era Kent

By Paul Robinson



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



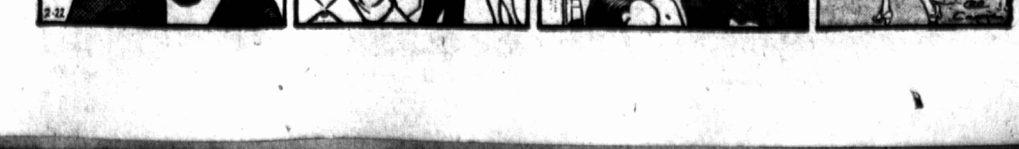
The Lone Ranger

By Fran Striker



Secret Agent X9

By George McManus



YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE PIN-WORMS
1 OUT OF 3 DOES!
Edging, nose-picking and a tormenting rectal itch are often tell-tale signs of Pin-Worms... ugly parasites that medical experts say infect one out of every three persons examined. Entire families may be victims and not know it.

JAYNE'S P.W.
for Pin-Worms
Don't take chances with this dangerous, highly contagious condition. Get genuine Jayne's P.W. Tablets... small, easy-to-take tablets... special size for children and adults. Perfected by Dr. D. Jayne & Son, specialists in worm remedies for 100 years.

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By Charles Kuhn

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By Carl Anderson

By Wally Bishop

By Bob Gustafson

By Paul Robinson

By Ham Fisher

By Fran Striker

By George McManus

By Elmer F. Kennedy