

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A PECULIAR DIFFERENCE

All reasonably experienced players use the proper signals to show suit-length when their partner reads the suit, but many of the same players are not nearly so alert when it is the declarer who attacks a suit. Here is a typical illustration:

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South and North, and the bidding sequence: South 1♠, North 1♥, South 2♠, North 2♥, South 3♠, North 3♥, South 4♠, North 4♥.

On the surface it would seem that six spades, rather than six hearts, should have been the final contract (if North-South ventured to any slam) but the fact is that either contract could have been defeated. As six spades, with East leading a diamond (the unbid suit), North would have to put up the diamond ace, lead to the club queen and back to dummy in hearts, then discard two diamonds on the A-K of clubs. However, when he then led a trump to the king, East could win and return a club, and if West properly ruffed this with the spade nine he would build another trump trick for his partner.

West, on lead against the actual six-heart contract, laid down the king of diamonds, South won with ace, led to the club queen then returned to his hand with a heart to discard dummy's six and jack of diamonds on high clubs. Then

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

MOTHER BEAR COMES AT LAST

The worst of frights will have an end. In time, the worst of hurts will mend. —Old Mother Nature.

Deep in the Green Forest on the shores of a long, deep pool were two little black imps of mischief. They were up in trees, one on one side of that deep long pool, and one on the other side.

One was more unhappy than the other. It was Totty Bear. She was on the wrong side of that little pool. She had fallen down Little Joe Otter's slippery slide on the steep, steep part of the opposite bank. She had been so frightened that she hadn't looked to see where she was paddling, and had crossed that big pool without meaning to. This was bad enough, for she was afraid to swim back. But to make matters worse, and frighten her more, Flathorns the Moose had suddenly appeared, and she had scrambled up

he led the deuce of spades. West should have followed suit with the nine of spades, to indicate a doubt to his partner, but he carelessly tossed on the five-spade — and East went wrong. Fearing that South had a singleton spade, East took his ace. He returned the high club, making dummy's ruff, but this didn't bother South. He simply overtook the heart jack drew West's last trump and went back to dummy in spades.

East might have made a better count of declarer's distribution, as indicated by his bidding and his line of play, but the beginning of a spade echo by West, to show a doubt, would have shouted to East to hold up his spade ace for one round.



He waded right into that pool.

a tree. Now she couldn't come down, for Flathorns was standing right under that tree. He wouldn't have hurt her, but she didn't know that. She had never seen him before. It was his biggest that frightened her. He was bigger than Mother Bear. She hadn't supposed that there was any one in all the Great World so big.

Her small brother on the shore saw Flathorns and was frightened too. He also had taken a tree just to feel safe. He felt he really didn't need to, because this great stranger was on the other side of the pool. He really was as unhappy because of his sister's fright as because of his own fear of the great stranger. He was sorry for Totty Bear, but he was glad that great stranger was on the other side and not on his side.

And then Flathorns walked out from beneath the tree right to the water's edge. He stood with his front feet in the water, and put his great head down until his nose was in the water. He was getting a drink. After drinking all he wanted, he stood looking across as if he would like to be on the other side.

"I'm glad he's over there and not over here," thought Totty Bear. Right then Flathorns seemed to make up his mind. He waded right into that pool. His legs were long, but that pool was so deep that the water was up to his back. It didn't seem to bother him at all. He came straight across to the shore where it was lowest. Totty Bear did just what his small sister had done in the tree on the opposite shore: he climbed higher. He climbed clear to the top of that tree.

and this stranger didn't go away? What would two helpless little Bear cubs do then, even if they were safe up in trees? People who are badly frightened are very apt to suppose the worst possible.

Now Mother Bear had been off digging some favorite roots of which she was fond. Presently Taddy Bear saw her coming back. Right away he forgot all his troubles. Mother Bear wouldn't let any harm come to him. She would drive this great stranger away. He watched her as she came shuffling along, swinging her head from side to side. Flathorns didn't see her, nor did she see Flathorns until she stepped out from behind some trees which had hidden her from him.

She stopped abruptly. She growled. It was a deep ugly growl. Wav up in the top of the tall tree Taddy Bear could hear that growl. It certainly did have an ugly sound. He looked down, expecting to see the terrible stranger take to his long legs and get away from there in a hurry. Flathorns did nothing of the kind. He faced Mother Bear, and began to paw the ground with his big front feet. It was plain that he wasn't afraid at all, even though he didn't have his great antlers. For a moment Mother Bear stood on her hind legs. How tall she was! How big she was! How fierce she was! But that didn't seem to make any difference to this homely great stranger. He merely puffed the ground, dizping up the soft earth, and blew through his nose angrily. What did Mother Bear do? Taddy Bear couldn't believe his own eyes. She dropped down to all four feet and walked away.

Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



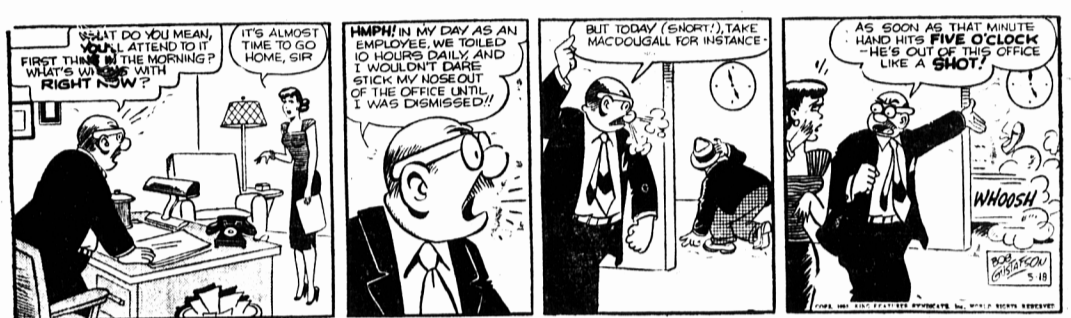
Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



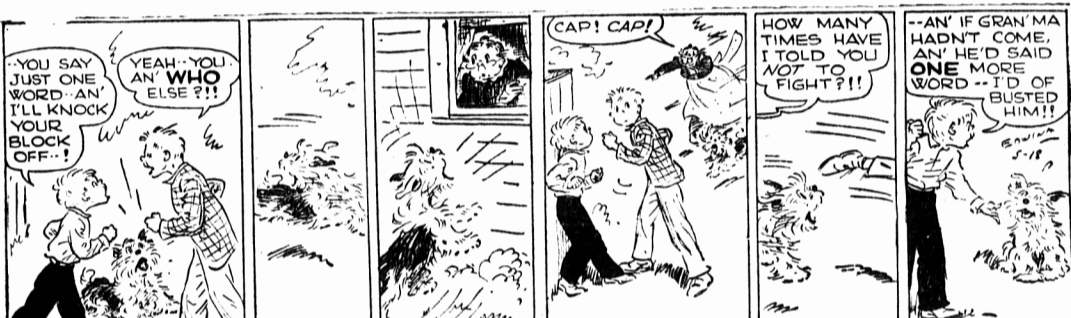
Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



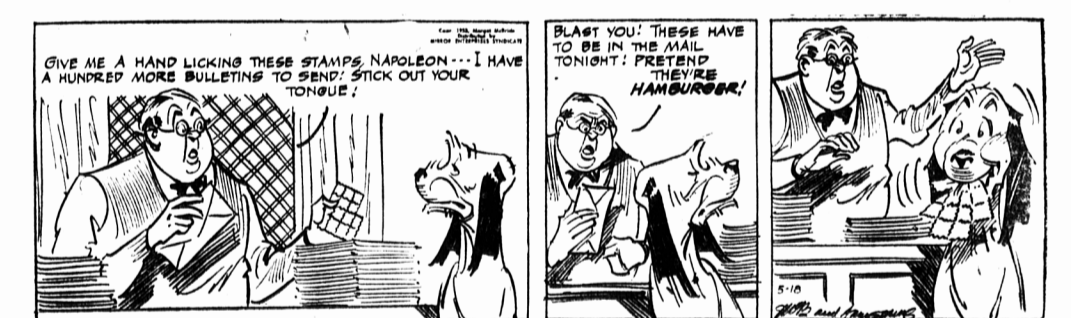
Tippy and 'Cap' Strubs

By Edwina



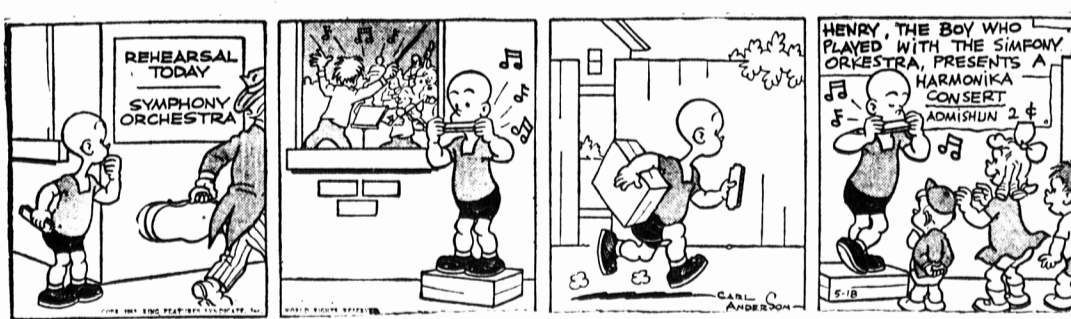
Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



Henry

By Carl Anderson



Pogo

By Walt Kelly



PENNY

By Harry Hoensgen



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Lil Abner

By Al Capp



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey

