

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

## LITTLE TOAD PLAYS DEAD

The slow who cannot run away  
Must find some other means to stay.  
—Old Mother Nature.

Little Toad was traveling toward Farmer Brown's garden. He didn't know he was doing this. He didn't know there was such a place as a garden. You see, he was just starting out in the Great World, and it was chance that was leading him toward Farmer Brown's garden.

Had he known all about it, he couldn't have made a better choice of a place to live. Old Mr. Toad could have told him that, for Old Mr. Toad had lived in that garden for many years. Old Mr. Toad was Little Toad's father, but neither of them knew this. Old Mr. Toad was already up in that garden. He had left the Smiling Pool at about the same time that Little



"Well done," said Old Mr. Toad. "Very well done."

Toad had, but being so much bigger and stronger and wiser in the ways of the Great World, he had traveled very much faster than his very small son.

Little Toad had learned two very important things. He had learned to watch behind him lest an enemy creep up on him unseen. And he had learned that danger may come from the sky. Also he had learned not to be too trusting, and this also was an important lesson.

Now you might think that such

a very small person as Little Toad, making such a long journey with unknown dangers all along the way, might be so worried and filled with fear that he would be unhappy. It wasn't so with Little Toad. He had had good living and was fat and in the best of spirits. Life might be one adventure after another, but how dull life would be without any adventure at all. There was fun in adventure if the adventure was not too great.

At long last, Little Toad was in Farmer Brown's garden. It was wonderful. Little Toad knew right away that he had found the place in the Great World where he was going to live. He knew right away that his long journey was at an end. It seemed to him that there was everything here that a Toad could ask for. There was plenty to eat, and there were hiding places everywhere.

Of course the first thing that Little Toad did when he got into the garden was to find a good place where he could fill his stomach, and there was no trouble in doing this. When he could eat no more, he sat for a while under a leaf of lettuce. Then he started out to explore. He had gone only a little way when he met a black giant. Yes, sir, he met a black giant. You wouldn't have called him a giant, but to Little Toad, Black Pussycat really was a tremendous giant. Little Toad wasn't as big as one of Black Pussycat's paws. He was too frightened to move. He just sat there and stared. Black Pussycat reached out a black paw and tipped Little Toad over on his back. Little Toad remained just as he fell. He didn't move so much as a toe. No, sir, he didn't move the tiniest bit. He was as still as if he were dead. Black Pussycat pushed him about with a black paw. Still Little Toad didn't move. He just

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# Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

## HOW WOULD YOU PLAY IT?

The problem of play was a little difficult for South in the following hand.

North dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

N  
 W E S  
 ♠ Q 9 8 4 2  
 ♥ 7 3 2  
 ♦ 6 4  
 ♣ K 4 3

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass  
3♣ Pass 4♣ Pass  
4♣ Pass Pass

West opened his lowest heart, which created a problem for declarer. The latter couldn't afford to lead out ace another trump — a defender might be able to lead a third round, and South would be left with two heart losers.

South solved this dilemma, temporarily, by leading the three of spades and playing his own eight. West, however, won with the king and shrewdly forced dummy suit, so he led the king. West won and returned still another heart, which South had to ruff with dummy's ace.

South now entered his own hand with a club and laid down the spade queen. West won and looked declarer in dummy with a club. Now, when South tried to get out of dummy to draw West's last trump, he could not keep West's blank seven of trumps from winning the setting trick.

This was a difficult hand to play, and so South was not to be severely criticized for losing the contract. He was right in thinking that he couldn't afford the lead of ace and another trump from dummy, but his first lead should have been the trump ten, rather than three-spot.

Observe how this lead would have "fixed" West. He would win with the jack and, as before, make dummy ruff a heart (with the three-spot). Now the diamond ace would be knocked out. Again, West would lead a heart, and dummy's blank spade ace would ruff. But now, when declarer entered his own hand with a club and laid down the spade queen, he would still have the 9-8 of spades and thus be able to draw West's seven-spot without danger.

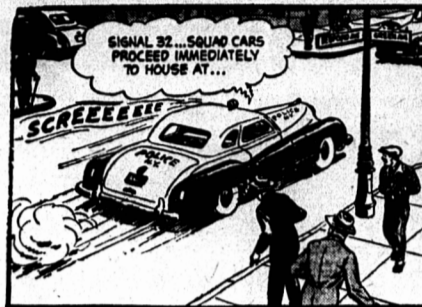


# KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



# JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



# HENRY

By Carl Anderson



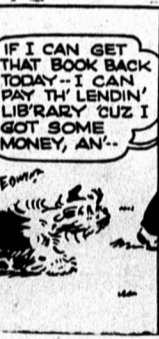
# DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford



# TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin



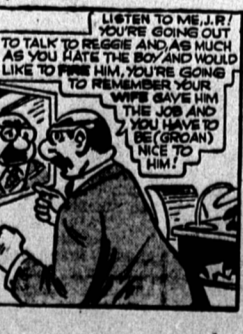
# BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



# TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



# PENNY

By Harry Hoogen



# There Ought To Be A Law

By Fagaly And Shorten



# PUGO

By Walt Kelly



# Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



# L'I'L ABNER

By Al Capp



# RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

