

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

A SIMPLE SAFETY PLAY
If there were no such thing as "atrocious breaks" almost every one would play expert bridge. It is the very fact, however, that freakish distributions do occur which makes it possible for one player to succeed with a contract that eight or ten other players might lose.

Today's deal is not an extraordinary illustration of this point, but it is safe to say that a great many declarers would fall into the same error that cost South his game contract.

South Dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

Hand layout showing cards: A 7 2, Q 6, 9 8 6 3, A 9 5, K Q J, 10 3, J 10 5 4, 6 4 3 2, N E S, 9 8 5 4, 7 3 2, K J 4, 6 5 7, 6, A K 8, A 10 7 5 2, K Q J 10.

The bidding: South West North East, 1 N T Pass 3 Pass, 1 N T Pass 5 Pass, 1 N T Pass 6 Pass.

West opened the spade king. De-

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



(By Thornton W. Burgess)

FUN AND NO FUN
Experience is often rough. The lessons that it teaches tough. —Old Mother Nature
Black Pussy was having fun over in the Green Forest. Yes, sir, Black Pussy was having fun. He had caught a little chipmunk. It was Little Stripes, smallest son of Striped Chipmunk. Little Stripes had been out in the Great World only a few days. He had wandered away

later put up the ace from dummy then led the diamond three to his own ace. When West showed over, South had only one resource — to make highly uncomplimentary remarks about West's vulnerable overcall and about his own bad luck. As far as the slam was concerned, that was gone irrevocably. Granting the point that South ran against an unusual break of trumps, the fact remains that he neglected one of the most valuable of safety plays.

His sole consideration was to guard against losing two diamond tricks, and the easy way to do that, when East played the diamond four on the lead from dummy, was to put in the diamond ten from the closed hand. If West had the king or jack, let him take the trick — with 2-1 break of trumps in effect, South could be sure of winning the rest of the tricks.

This safety play, though almost elementary, is not practiced to the extent that it should be. It will be found, by shuffling around the missing K-J-4 of diamonds, that South cannot lose a material trick by leading a low card from dummy and playing the ten instead of the ace. Of course, if East shows out on the first diamond lead, South puts up the ace and leads toward the queen.

from home over onto the Green Forest, and for several days had been living in an old log. Nothing had happened to frighten him since Broadwing the Hawk had chased him into that hollow log some days before. Because nothing had happened he had grown careless. He had not yet learned that when the most dangerous time is often there is no sign of danger, now Little Stripes was paying for that carelessness.

Twice he had been terribly frightened, once by Reddy Fox and again by Broadwing the Hawk. By sheer good luck he had escaped. As, happily, always is the case with the wild folk, he had got over his fright almost as the danger passed. It was very different now, very different indeed. He was caught by this dreadful person in a black coat. He wasn't much hurt, only scratched a little. But this dreadful stranger was playing with him, pretending to let him go, then pouncing on him again. It was fun for Black Pussy, but there was no fun in it for Little Stripes. No, indeed! For Little Stripes there was only terror, the very worst kind of terror. Perhaps you have seen a cat play with a mouse, pretending to let it go, then suddenly pouncing on it. Have you ever thought how the mouse must feel?

Black Pussy let go of Little Stripes and walked away a few feet. For a moment Little Stripes didn't move. He kept his small eyes fixed on Black Pussy hoping faintly Black Pussy seemed to have forgotten him. The little chipmunk began to steal away. At first he crept very slowly. Then he started to run. If only he could get back to that hollow log he would be safe. He ran faster. He was almost to the hole in the log

when he had the dreadful experience of being pounced on. Black Pussy had let him get almost to the safety of that hollow log. Black Pussy tossed the little chipmunk in the air. He knocked him about, first with one paw then the other. He picked Little Stripes up in his mouth and pretended to bite him. He put him down and walked off again. Once more Little Stripes tried to steal away, once more at the last instant he was pounced on. Yes, Black Pussy was having fun cruel fun. When he grew tired of playing he would kill the little chipmunk and take him home to show what a smart hunter he was. Little Stripes was hopeless now. He didn't even try to steal away when Black Pussy turned his head. Little Stripes was rapidly becoming helpless as well as hopeless. There was a rustling in the bushes. The little chipmunk didn't notice it, but Black Pussy heard it. He turned his head as he looked and listened. For a moment or two he quite forgot Little Stripes. Now was the latter's chance to steal away. He didn't. He didn't even try. You see, he had tried so many times before and failed that he felt it was useless. Perhaps he would have tried had he heard the rustling of the bushes. But he didn't hear, and he didn't try.

In a moment Prickly Porky the Porcupine shuffled out of the bushes.

He shuffled straight toward Black Pussy. Black Pussy drew back. He snarled and spat. Prickly Porky paid no attention. He shuffled straight on. Black Pussy was forced to jump to one side. By that time he had forgotten the little chipmunk.

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



by Ham Fisher

JOE PALOOKA



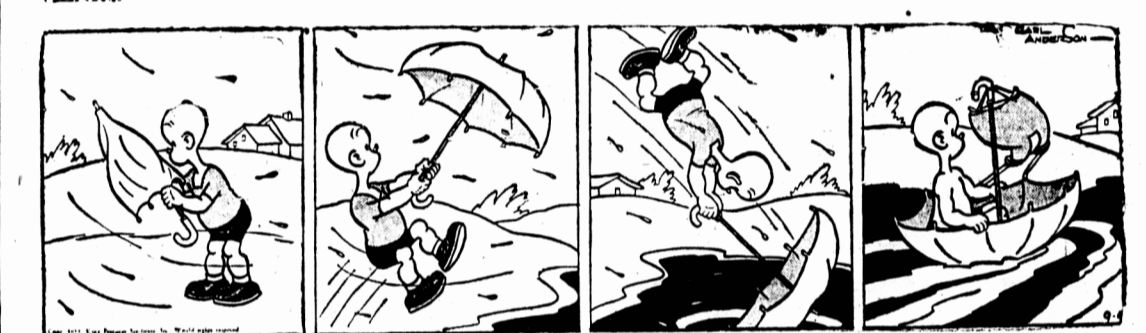
By Carl Anderson

DOTTY DIPPLE



By Ruford

HENRY



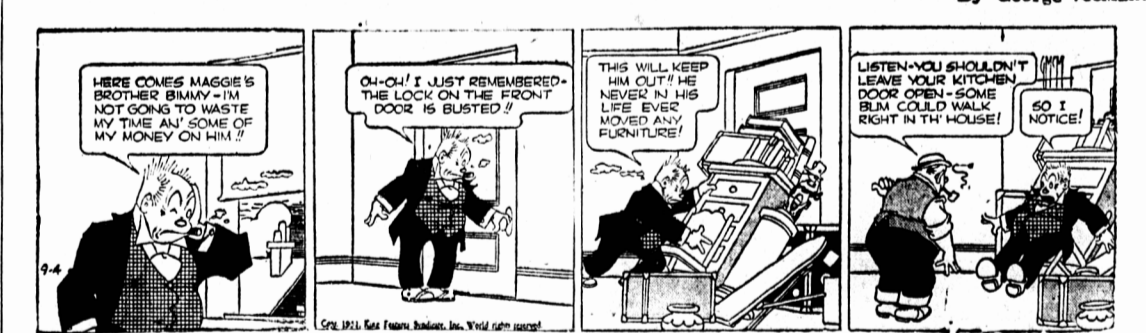
TIPPY AND "CAP" STURS

By Edwin



BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



TILLY THE TOILER

By Westcott



PENNY

By Harry Meeniger



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WORTH RUNNING FOR!
2 IN 1 SALE
2 FOR 59¢
YES SIR! 2 BOTTLES IN ONE PACKAGE, ONLY 59¢
WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC

POGO
By WALT KELLY
NOW THE FIRST THING US THUNDER HUNTERS GOTTA DO IS LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THIS TIGER.
I'D RECOGNIZE HIM EASY... I WAS HOPEIN' HE WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
US CAN'T KEEP GETTIN' PINCKY WHEN US HEARS HIS ROAR.
HE'S ROAR AGAIN!
SPINE CURDLIN!
THE BLOOD STAIN ROAR OF A SAVAGE MAN-EATER.
LISTEN AT HIM GNASH AN' GNARL HIS TEETH!
OH... HIG, CATHERINE.
HIG, ALBERT.
NOW TRY IT AGAIN, PENNERWICK, SON, YOU IS LEARNIN' FIRST RATE.
MEOW.
MEOW.

LIL ABNER
By Al Capp
BABY... COME AWAY FROM THAT DIRTY OLD THING... IT MIGHT BITE YOU!!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED DEAR... I MEAN—THIS LADY IS YOUR FUTURE MOTHER...
—I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT!! I-I CAN'T HELP WHAT YOU DO TO DAISY MAE...
BUT YOU WON'T BE MY CHILD'S MOTHER!!
EF YO MAKES ME HER MOTHER, AH'LL LARN HER HOW T'HEX OTHER CHILLIN' AN' MAKE 'EM SCREAM THAR HEARTS OUT WIF VOODOO DAIN!!
BUT EF YO REPOSES—REMEMBER?—AH GOT HER HEXED DOLLY! FUST, AH'LL BOLL ITS HAIR—THEH, AH'LL FREEZE ITS LIT EYEBALLS—
STOP! I'LL MARRY YOU!!

LIL KIRBY
By Alex Raymond
I'M AFRAID THE STRAIN WAS TOO MUCH FOR MR... SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A COUPLE OF DAYS BUT SHE NEEDS COMPLETE REST AND QUIET!
BUT DOCTOR, HERS STRAIGHT IS A MURDER SUSPECT, I'VE GOT TO TAKE HER INTO CUSTODY!
SHE MAY BE A MURDER SUSPECT TO YOU... TO ME, SHE'S A SICK WORKING GIRL WHO'S BEEN LIT, I'LL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES!
WELL, I GUESS I COULD LEAVE HER HERE AND POST A GUARD AT HER DOOR... OKAY, I'LL DO IT, DOC!
IF YOU DON'T MIND SERGEANT, I THINK I'LL STICK AROUND TOO! I'VE A MUNCH THIS CASE IS GOING TO BREAK WIDE OPEN!