

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Clubertson
A MANY-SIDED HAND

The following hand raised two interesting points of defense and one of declarer's play.

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

AK743	8
AJ5	983
72	AK95
AK3	42

W N E S

QJ10	8
985	AK95
Q64	42
J103	AK95
C	42

2 K1072
Q864
9865

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

South's hand was too weak for even a notrump response; he should have passed to one spade.

The spade bid did not keep West from leading the queen — it was his safest as well as his most constructive. Dummy won, and South then made an unlikely guess in hearts, finessing against East. West won and continued spades. Matters seemed so hopeless to South that he put up the second spade honor from dummy, disclaiming a hold-up, but he revived a little when East signalled very emphatically with the nine of diamonds. South scarcely would have had the nerve to start the diamond suit, himself, but with this indication from East that both the ace and king were on-side, South led a diamond toward his own hand. East put up the king, and West (who sensed exactly what was going on) signalled with the diamond jack, to indicate the ten.

East had already done some damage by discarding the diamond, but he now became much gullible by shifting to the club jack. Dummy won, West's blank king falling, and South led another diamond toward the queen. East ducked and the queen of course held. Now it was South's turn to slip: he cashed all of his hearts, thereby giving East the chance to discard the diamond ace — a play which

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES



By Thornton W. Burgess

WORRY IN THE OLD BRIAR-PATCH

Rich or poor, big or small, Worry has a part with all. —Peter Rabbit.

Peter Rabbit and Mrs. Peter were having to share the dear old Briar-patch with a neighbor. It was Jimmy Skunk. They didn't like it, but there seemed to be nothing they could do about it. If Jimmy had made up his mind to stay he would stay. He is one of the most independent people in all the Great World.

Jimmy had taken possession of an old Woodchuck hole in the middle of the Briar-patch. It had been dug long ago by Johnny Chuck's great-grandfather. Peter and Mrs. Peter had no use for it except when they needed shelter in bad weather. Then they sometimes used it. It was the only real shelter in the Old Briar-patch, so they had come to look on it as their own. Jimmy Skunk was living there now and he said he was going to stay the rest of the winter.

Peter is happy-go-lucky. He isn't given to doing much worrying. Usually he takes things as they happen. But now Peter was worrying. Perhaps he had caught it from Mrs. Peter, for she had been worrying ever since Jimmy Skunk moved in.

"What are we going to do if there is a very bad storm with snow and ice?" asked Mrs. Peter.

Peter shook his head. "Don't ask me," said he. "I don't know what we will do but sit tight in the thickest part of the Old Briar-patch. There isn't anything else we can do."

"We might freeze to death," said

little Mrs. Peter. "No, my dear, we won't freeze to death. We've stayed out in some bad storms, and we can do it again if we have to," said Peter. "People do freeze to death," said Mrs. Peter, refusing to be comforted.

"I suppose we might dig a hole ourselves," said Peter. "Just try it," said Mrs. Peter scornfully. "Jack Frost has made the ground too hard for us to do any digging."

Peter knew this was true. Anyway, he wasn't too fond of digging. Cottontail Rabbits are not like their cousins over in Europe. Over there Rabbits just love to dig. They dig for fun, and they love to live a lot together in one neighborhood. They are social. They are like Yap-Yap the Prairie Dog, in that a lot of them like to live close together. Where a lot of Rabbits dig their holes close together the place is called a "warren." Peter and Mrs. Peter wouldn't know what to do in a warren.

"Perhaps we won't have any bad storms," said Peter hopefully. "We've never known a winter when we didn't have bad storms," Peter Rabbit. Don't be foolish!" retorted Mrs. Peter.

"Well," said Peter, "there isn't any use worrying about a bad storm until it comes. Worrying doesn't do anybody any good. Worrying won't let Jimmy Skunk out of that old house, so let's stop worrying and make the best of things as they are. You know, we can always go over to the Old Pasture; there are shelters there."

"I don't want to go over to the Old Pasture!" declared Mrs. Peter. "You know very well it isn't as safe for us there as it is here."

"My dear, I just mentioned it as something we can do if we have to," replied Peter mildly.

Mrs. Peter said nothing more at that time, but there wasn't a day that she didn't bring the subject up. Peter did his best to pretend that he himself was not worrying, but

Always, Peter and Mrs. Peter hopefully watched him go.

he was. He had lived through too many hard winters not to know what a bad ice storm would mean if they had to stay out all through it with no shelter except the bare twigs and branches of the bushes and brambles of the Old Briar-patch. So Peter really did worry. Every once in a while Jimmy would wake up, and sometimes go off looking for something to eat. Always, Peter and Mrs. Peter hopefully watched him go. Perhaps he wouldn't come back. But always he did. Then Peter would begin worrying again. Every time there was a light fall of snow, he would worry lest it turn into a bad storm. Peter and Mrs. Peter were not really happy.

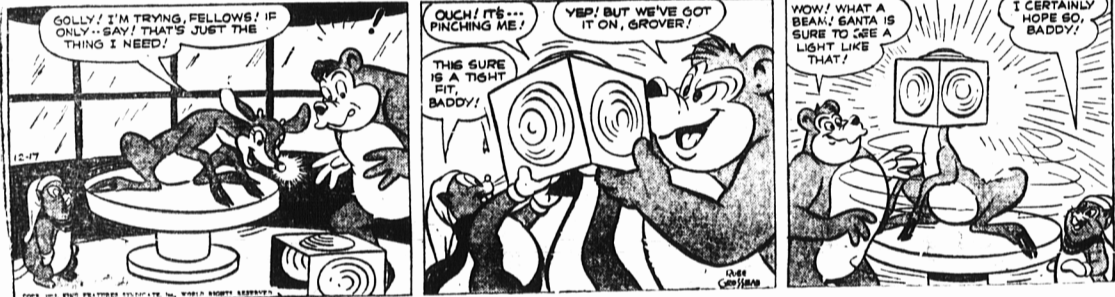
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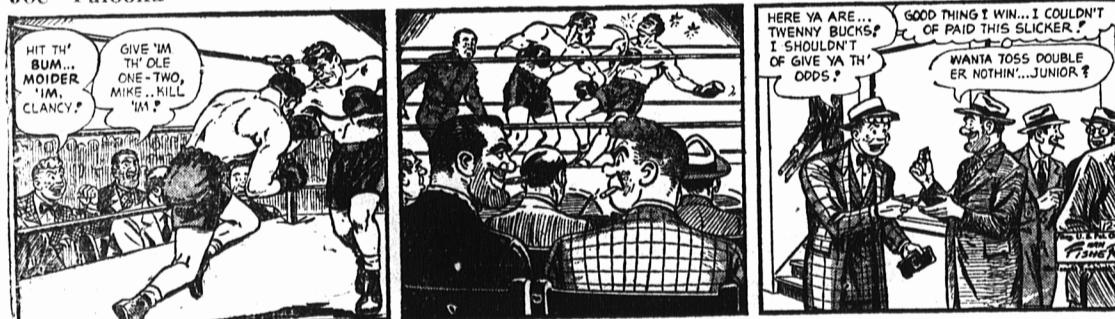
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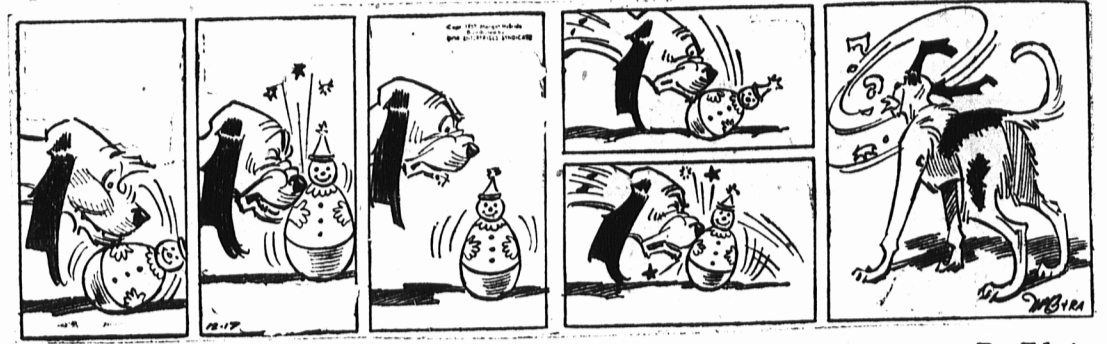


Dotty Dripple



By Clifford McBride

Napoleon and Uncle Elby



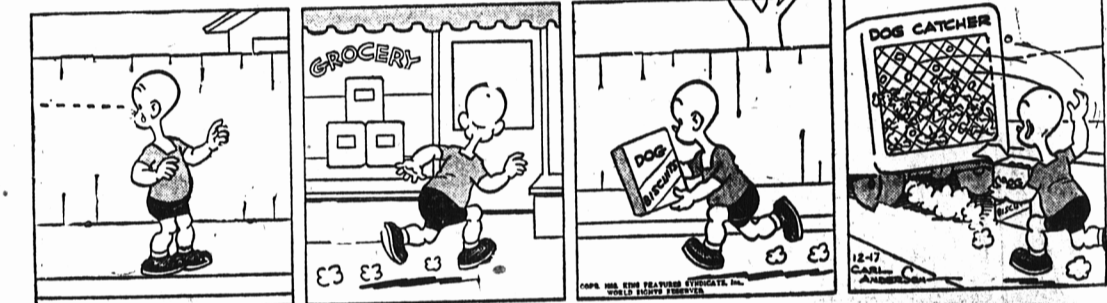
By Edwina

Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



By Carl Anderson

Henry



By Bob Gustafson

Tilly The Toiler



By George McManus

Bringing Up Father



By Walt Kelly

Pogo



By Harry Hoegen

PENNY

