

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

**OLD MR. TOAD HEEDS**  
Love dares all things; knows no fear  
When comes the call of those most dear.

—Old Mr. Toad.  
Old Mr. Toad was fidgety. He was uneasy. He couldn't keep still. This was not at all like Old Mr. Toad. No, sir, it wasn't at all like the old Mr. Toad. He was in a corner of Farmer Brown's garden. It was the time of day he loves best, when the soft dusk of early evening makes it possible for him to move about with less danger of being seen than in daylight.

Across the Green Meadows from the Smiling Pool came a joyous chorus of many voices. Peepers, the Hyla, the tiny Tree Frog, cousin of Old Mr. Toad, and very many of

his own kind were pouring out their joy in being awakened by sweet Mistress Spring. To them as to so many others it was the happiest time of all the year.

Listening to that joyful chorus, Old Mr. Toad grew more and more fidgety. He couldn't sit still. He wanted to be down in the Smiling Pool, having a special part of his own in that chorus of love and joy and simple gladness in being alive. And Old Mr. Toad knew that somewhere, he didn't know where, Old Mrs. Toad was listening to the happy voices coming from the Smiling Pool and she was listening even more closely than was he, for she was listening for one voice, a voice that in many years had never failed her—his voice. He should be there now singing to and for her, singing the love song that would make his voice the



Old Mr. Toad wasn't as young as he used to be.

sweetest voice in all that joyous chorus.

Old Mr. Toad wasn't as young as he used to be. Nobody is. Because he really was old it looked to him like a long and dangerous journey from Farmer Brown's garden to the Smiling Pool. He had made one false start. That is, he had started, then came back because of Peter Rabbit. Peter had said that he had seen Jimmy Skunk in the neighborhood. That was enough. Old Mr. Toad promptly retreated under the wide board where he made his home.

He knew that if he should meet Jimmy Skunk, it might prove to be just too bad. Then again, it might not. It would all depend on just how hungry Jimmy was. If he wasn't hungry, he might not even look at Old Mr. Toad. But it was hungry—well, Old Mr. Toad didn't like to think what might happen; would be quite likely to happen. It was better to be safe than sorry no matter how much he wanted to get to the Smiling Pool.

Peter had gone away. Jimmy Skunk hadn't appeared. Probably he had gone off in another direction. Old Mr. Toad was outside again and getting more and more fidgety as he listened to Peepers the Hyla and his friends. "I've got to get over there," said Old Mr. Toad, talking to himself. "I've got to. I'm late as it is. What will Mrs. Toad think if she doesn't hear my voice? I feel as if every one of those small cousins of mine is calling me. Hello! I wonder what has happened now!"

The singing had stopped abruptly. Not a single voice was to be heard. From long experience in the Smiling Pool himself, Old Mr. Toad knew just what that meant. One of the little singers had been frightened and stopped singing, or had been caught by a hungry eater of little frogs.

The very instant that voice ceased, it was missed by the other singers and all stopped. No one knew what had happened but everyone knew that to be silent was the surest way to be unseen and so safe.

While Old Mr. Toad waited and fidgeted he half-filled the music bag in his throat as if to try out his voice. Then he thought better of it. To fill that music bag full and sing his sweetest he should be in the water. That was the only place to sing. He really should be down

# Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

## EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS

True expertise at bridge involves two similar but by no means identical qualities: the ability to foresee and thus guard against bad suit-breaks; and the ability to minimize, if not overcome, difficulties which could not have been avoided.

In the following case the declarer, needed the first-name quality.

South Dealer:  
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♥ Pass 1NT Pass  
2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
5♥ Pass Pass Pass

As may be seen, East kept on passing until the enemy reached game, then ventured his sacrifice bid of four spades. This sort of tactic is rarely successful against good players, but it sometimes works against weak opposition. It seems to have succeeded here—

South, instead of doubling four spades, decided to try for five hearts. Actually, this was a good idea, but South couldn't back it up in the play.

West played the spade eight. South took the trick and confidently led a low trump to dummy's queen. East won with his blank ace, and, when he returned two rounds of spades, declarer was in a hopeless position. He had to ruff high to shut out an immediate overruff, but this simply resulted in delaying defeat, since West's heart holding was then good for the setting trick.

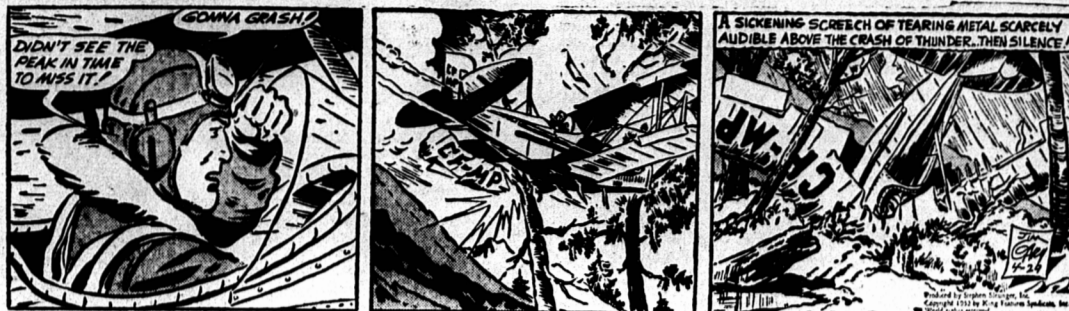
The four-spade bid made by East was all the warning South should have required to be somewhat more cautious in his trump-handling! The heart ace was marked in East's hand, and it might well be blank. In any case, it could not cost anything to guard against that possibility. South should have gone to dummy's club ace and returned the trump seven! That play would have given him rigid control of the situation.

SERVE  
**Coca-Cola**  
NO MUSS NO BOTHER

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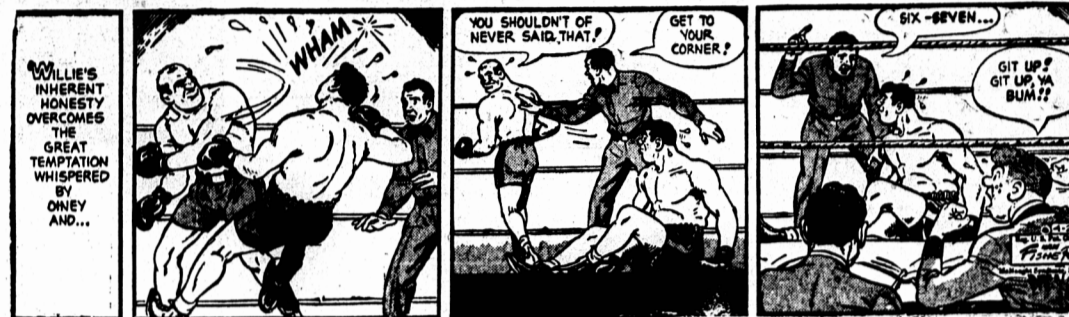
# KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

By Zane Grey



# JOE PALOOKA

By Ham Fisher



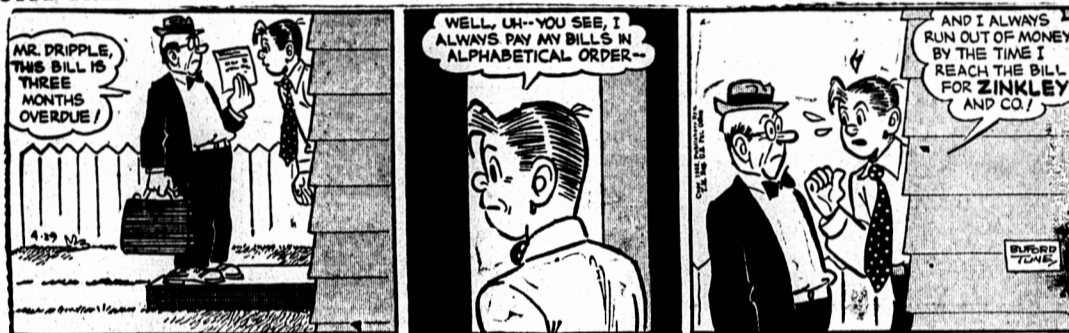
# HENRY

By Carl Anderson



# DOTTY DRIPPLE

By Ruford



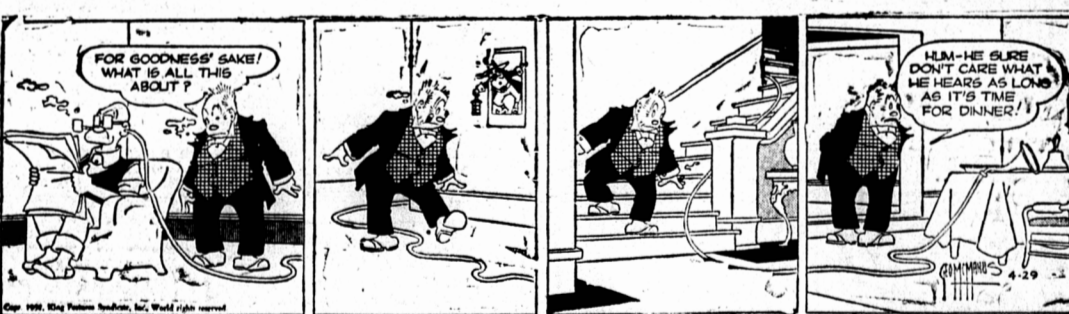
# TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwin



# BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



# TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson



# PENNY

By Harry Hoenigsen



# NOTICE

This is to inform all interested parties that as of the 1st of May, 1952, I will have severed all connections with the P. E. I. Veterinary Services Policy.

From this date I will be conducting a restricted large animal private practice with fees similar as in the past with the exception that there will be a mileage fee charged in addition to professional fees

Signed:—  
**DR. JOHN E STERNS,**  
Veterinary Surgeon,  
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

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