

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

MAKING THE BEST OF IT

Who makes the best of things will find there is reward in peace of mind. —Old Mother Nature.

Glutton the Wolverine had gone off deeper into the Green Forest after wrecking the house of Paddy the Beaver. He had had a good time doing this. There are folks like that. They seem to delight in hurting other people. That house had cost Paddy and Mrs. Paddy a lot of hard work. They had built it themselves without help from anyone. They had cut down the trees from which the house had been built. They had cut those trees up into small logs and sticks, and floated them out to where the house was to be. There, out in the water, a long hall or tunnel leading to it under water, and a stout windproof and waterproof roof over that living room. This had meant work, and more work. But there isn't a lazy bone in either Paddy or Mrs. Paddy. When it was finished, they were very proud of their house. They had a right to be. It was a fine house. Just before Jack Frost arrived they had covered it with mud, and Jack Frost had frozen this just as hard as a rock.

They had felt perfectly safe, and had lived most comfortably and happily in that house. They hadn't dreamed that anything could happen to it. Now it lay scattered about on the ice, and they were homeless.

You see, they don't live under water, as some folks seem to think they do. They breathe air just as you and I do. If they had to stay under water very long, they would drown just as you and I would. It was mid-winter and now their house was destroyed. What were they to do? They couldn't rebuild that house now, because the pond was covered with ice. Even if they could have cut more trees they couldn't have floated the logs and sticks out to that house. And it wouldn't have been safe for them to haul them out over the ice.

"Whatever are we going to do?" whimpered Mrs. Paddy, as they watched Glutton disappear among the trees.

"Make the best of things," replied Paddy.

"That's easily said, but what is there we can do," replied Mrs. Paddy, still whimpering.

"First of all, I'm going over to see what that fellow has done," replied Paddy.

He disappeared under water, and presently poked his head out of the under water tunnel that had led to the living room of the house. They had been so proud of it. He crawled out. Mrs. Paddy could see him poking about in the ruins. After a few minutes she joined him.

"Can we make a new roof?" she asked. She knew they couldn't but she just had to ask.

Paddy shook his head. "No chance," said he. "That fellow tore everything apart that he could. If he was trying to get even with me because I nearly drowned him when we had a fight he ought to be satisfied now."

Of course, Glutton hadn't been trying to get even. He had torn that house to pieces because he likes to do such things. He likes to make trouble for others. He is never happier than when he is doing this. He would have done it just the same if he had never had that fight with Paddy. Destroying things is Glutton's idea of having fun.

"I don't see what we're going to do. I don't see what we can do without a roof over our heads."



They swam under the ice to their food pile.

whimpered Mrs. Paddy. "I know what I'm going to do now," declared Paddy.

"What?" asked Mrs. Paddy. "I'm going to get something to eat. I'm going to get an aspen stick, and you're going to do the same thing. We've got plenty of food, and that is something to be thankful for. We would be a lot worse off if we had lost our food pile. Come on, my dear. After we've eaten, we'll decide what to do next," said Paddy. He spoke hopefully. He was trying to make the best of things.

"They swam under the ice to their food pile. Each got a stick of aspen. They towed these to the spring-hole from which they had watched their house torn to pieces. They climbed out on the ice and began eating the bark from the sticks that they had brought with them. Even Mrs. Paddy felt better as they ate."

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Contract Bridge

By Josephine Cluerton

SOUND TECHNIQUE

The declarer's handling of the heart suit, below, was the crucial phase of the play.

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

▲ A 9 7 4

♦ 8 5 3 2

♣ J 6 3

♠ A K

▲ K 10 5

♦ J 10 4

♣ A 10 8

♠ 7 2

▲ Q J 2

♦ A K 9 6

♣ Q 9 4

♠ Q 7 5

▲ 8 6 3

♦ Q 7

♣ K 5

♠ J 10 8 6

▲ 4 2

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass Pass

North's hand was certainly not too robust for an opening bid, but since he did open, his short-suit club was the least of evils.

Many good players would respond with a heart on South's hand, rather than two notrump, but there was considerable logic in South's choice.

West opened his fourth-highest diamond; East won and returned the diamond five. West ducked this return, playing the eight in an attempt to make declarer believe he had started with only a four-card suit and that East still had a diamond for communication.

Declarer overtook his own diamond nine with the jack in order to lead a heart from dummy. East played low and South won with the ace. Dummy was re-entered with a club and another heart was led. Now, when East's queen appeared, declarer ducked, more than willing to let East hold this trick. If he could return a diamond, that meant only three diamond tricks for the enemy; if he couldn't, all the better. The crucial point was that East, not West, was winning the present trick; that declarer now could expect to take three hearts, the diamond already home, two clubs — and then could finesse against the spade king into the non-danger hand, East.

That was the way things worked out. Indeed, when South led the spade jack through West, that defender failed to cover, and since he soon had to discard two diamonds (when South cashed another club and heart trick) he was finally thrown in with the diamond ace and forced to give South an extra trick by leading from the spade king.

The meeting closed by singing "The Queen," after which lunch was served by the hostess.

The collection amounted to 65 cents.

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King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



Rip Kirby

By Alex Raymond



Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride

