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By Thornton W. Burgess

THE FRIENDLY WATER

Friendship is a thing to treasure,
Without price, and none may measure
—Reddy Fox.

Young Too-Smart lay in the grass at the edge of a small hill where he could look down on Laughing Brook. He had seen his father, Reddy Fox, running ahead of a Dog, reach Laughing Brook while still out of sight of the Dog. Reddy had run in the shallow water a short distance, then left the water by jumping from one big stone to another and so crossing the brook to the other side. There he had disappeared in the brush. Now that Dog no longer was barking. He was whining as he ran back and forth along the edge of Laughing Brook, trying to find the lost trail of Reddy.

There was no trail. The scent he had been following ended right there at the edge of the water. The Dog ran up Laughing Brook a little way with his nose to the ground trying to find that scent. He went for quite a distance. He was a smart Dog, and he wasn't satisfied to sniff carefully along close to the water. He circled out around some distance from the water, just in case that Fox had managed to make a long jump, and so leave no trail where he had left the water. Still whining, the Dog came back to his starting point. Then he went down Laughing Brook, working just as carefully as he had worked up Laughing Brook. He couldn't find the trail. He crossed Laughing Brook and worked up and down the other shore, but he missed the place where Reddy had leaped from a big stone to the bank. He returned and crossed back to the point where the trail had ended. Just then Reddy Fox crept in beside Young Too-Smart. Reddy was grinning. "He hates to give up, but he'll have to," whispered Reddy.

Now the young Fox knew nothing about Dogs and how they hunt Foxes, nor of the ways Foxes can fool the Dogs. He was getting his first lesson now. "Why did he stop at the water's edge?" he asked. "Why didn't he follow you?"

Reddy's grin broadened. "He couldn't," said he. "Water is one of the best friends we Foxes have. Running water holds no scent at all. When that Dog reached the edge of the water, the scent ended right there. Did you notice that I kept in the water for quite a distance?"

The young Fox nodded. He had wondered why his father had kept in the water when it would have been easier running on shore.

"When I left the water, I did it by jumping from one big stone to another until I could jump ashore on the other side," said Reddy. "That Dog didn't know whether I had gone up or down or across. If he had waded out and smelled one of those big stones I used, he might have found my scent and guessed which way I had gone. Don't ever forget that water is friendly; and if you are chased by Dogs, you can always break the trail if you can get to water and know how to make use of it. Some Dogs are smarter than other Dogs. That Dog that was chasing me a young Dog. I couldn't have fooled Bowser the Hound as easily as that. Bowser lives over at that nearest house. His master never hunts with a dreadful gun, but Bowser chases me just for fun some times. He knows most of our tricks, but I always manage to fool him. If I didn't, I wouldn't be here now. Never forget that water is friendly. It has saved the lives of many many Foxes.'

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

NO HAND FOR TRUMP-DRAWING

The sort of player whose first thought is to "get out the trumps" should try to avoid becoming declarer in this type of hand:

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
North-South 40 part-score.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

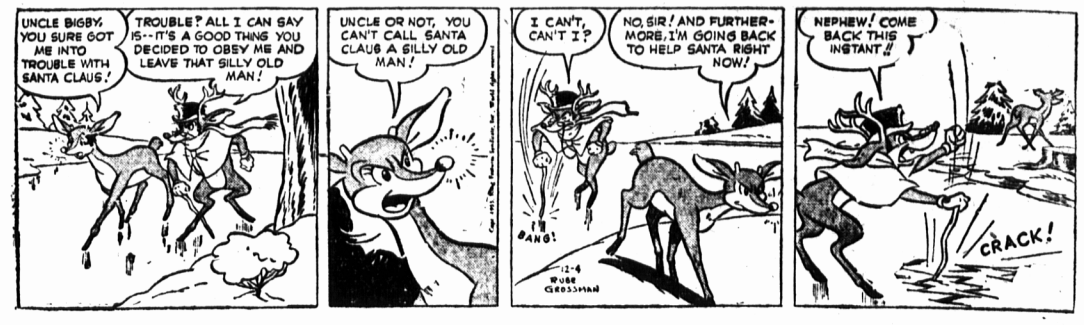
Considering the part-score situation, East-West might have offered more competitive bidding, but, as it happened, this was not necessary!

West opened a low heart. South captured East's queen and promptly laid down the ace and king of trumps. He then led the queen of diamonds. West won and cashed the trump queen, then led the king and jack of hearts. Declarer ruffed with his last trump and confidently led the jack of diamonds, making a gesture of concession.

East, however, was in no hurry to take his diamond king; he let the jack hold. Now South awoke to the fact that he was in very deep water — but there was nothing he could do about it. His next lead of the diamond ten was taken by East, who returned a club. Declarer put up the queen, only to have it smothered by West's king. Since South could not return to his own hand to cash his established diamonds, he had to con-

Continued on page 12

Rudolph—and the Blue Nosed Reindeer — By Robert L. May



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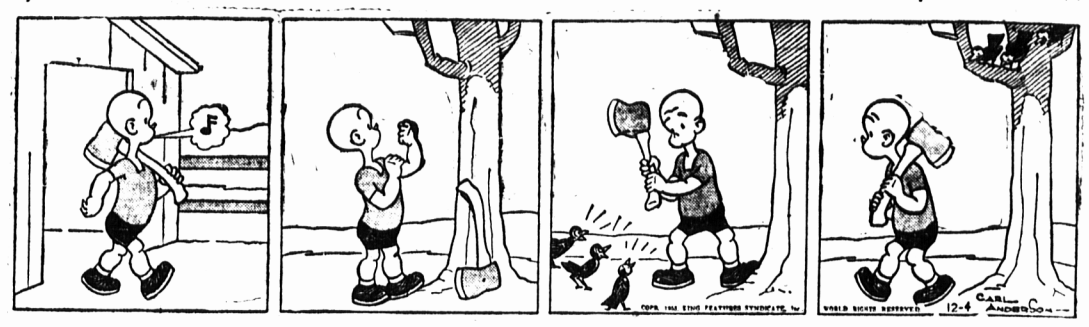
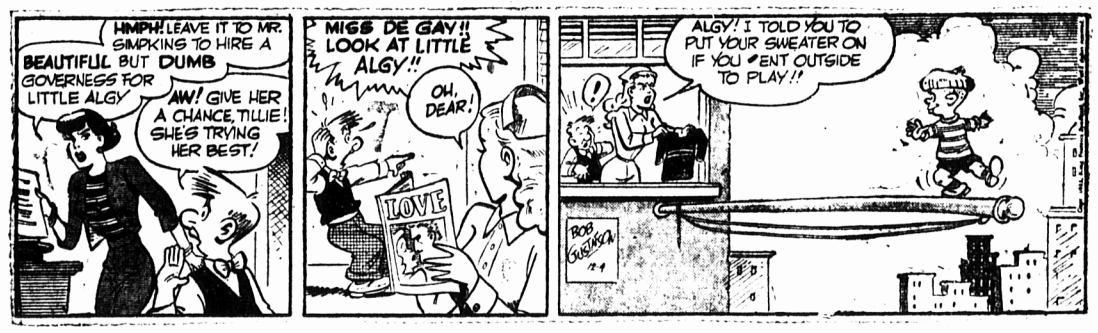


Bringing Up Father — By George McManus

Dotty Dripple — By Buford

Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson



Joe Palooka — By Ham Fisher

Napoleon and Uncle Elby — By Clifford McBride

Rip Kirby — By Alex Raymond

King of The Royal Mounted — By Zane Grey

Pogo — By Walt Kelly

Li'l Abner — By Al Capp

PENNY — By Harry Haenigsen