

**Contract Bridge**  
By Josephine Culbertson  
**HOW TO DRIVE A PARTNER MAD**

The Blackwood Convention, excellent as it is, requires common-sense handling, and that is what it didn't get in the following case.

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

♠ Q 8 5  
♥ 10 6  
♦ J 10 9 8  
♣ 9 8 5 4

♠ 6 2  
♥ J 9 8 3  
♦ Q 7 4 3  
♣ J 7 2

♠ A K 7 3  
♥ 5 4  
♦ A K 5 2  
♣ K 10 6

**The bidding:**

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 ♠
Pass	5 NT	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	6 NT	Pass	Pass

If South had been lucky he would have made the six-notrump contract, but the spade queen was off-side and the hearts didn't break, so he had to go down when the defenders attacked in diamonds. But perhaps it is being too kind to say that South was unlucky, because the plain fact is that the right contract, six spades, would have had many successes.

Although it was pointed out above that the Blackwood Convention, though simple, needs proper handling, the strangest part of this affair was that South, according to his own statement, did not intend that his four-notrump call should be interpreted as a Blackwood bid by his partner! His idea (South explained, but rather belatedly) was that no suit had been agreed on, and so he was simply showing a strong hand with no trump distribution. The great trouble, however, was that North naturally and inevitably read the call as the Blackwood Convention rounds. Thus, what might be termed a perfect misunderstanding was created between the partners — with a result that one might easily expect.

The truth, of course, is that in this day and time, with Blackwood standard equipment of 99% of good partnerships, South had no right to bid four notrump except with the idea of discovering how many aces North held — and since, as South himself realized, there had not yet been any agreement, even tentative, about a trump suit, the use of that four-notrump call was inexcusable. South should have been delighted to make the strong rebid of four diamonds over North's three hearts — and then to "listen."

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**ATTENTION**

We shall be closed from 5 P.M. FRIDAY, Dec. 24, through MONDAY, Dec. 27. We ask all our customers to kindly place their orders by NOON Friday to insure sufficient fuel for the holiday week-end.

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**BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES**

By Thorton W. Burgess  
**REDDY FOX IS TANTALIZED**

A thing may be both far and near. I hope I make my meaning clear. —Old Mother Nature.

King Eagle is both a hunter and a fisherman. He isn't as good a fisherman as some others, but he does now and then catch fish. He prefers, however, to have someone else catch the fish for him. No one does this for him, willingly, but a few do it unwillingly! Plunger the Osprey is one of these. Plunger is a famous fisherman. No one knows this better than does King Eagle. Long ago, he learned that one of the easiest ways to get a fish dinner, is sit where he can watch Plunger from a distance, for



King Eagle stood on the stump beside the fish.

King Eagle had just robbed Saw-bill the Merganser, who is one of the duck folk. He had made Saw-bill drop a fish. Now he was flying with that fish to an old stump on the bank of the Big River. Hiding behind some bushes a little back of that stump was Reddy Fox. His mouth was watering as he watched King Eagle bring that fish in. Reddy had had only a mouse for breakfast, and for two days before he had had nothing at all, because he had been a prisoner of deep snow. How he did wish that King Eagle would give him that fish. But he knew better than to ask for it. In fact, he knew better than to let King Eagle know he was hiding there. He hoped that when King Eagle ate that fish, he might let drop some little pieces of it.

When King Eagle reached the old stump he did a surprising thing. He laid that fish down on the old stump. He didn't tie it to pieces. He simply let it lie there. Reddy couldn't understand this. He was himself so hungry that he couldn't believe anyone would have food within reach and not eat it. What he didn't know was that King Eagle had already been lucky, and

The Guardian Page 7  
Thursday, Dec. 23, 1954  
**Way Cleared For Sale Of Steel Co.**

PITTSBURG, (AP) — Lawyers for Follansbee Steel Corp., said Tuesday the way has been cleared for sale of the firm's physical assets to Frederick W. Richmond New York financier.

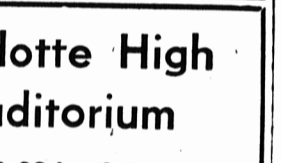
Sherman T. Rock, general counsel for the steel firm, said Judge Herbert S. Boreman "dismissed an earlier opinion which had the effect of blocking the sale."

Richmond said last weekend he expected to close the deal for sale of Follansbee Steel's mill at Follansbee to Cyrus Eaton Cleveland industrialist, and native of Pughwash, N.S., on Thursday.

Eaton has announced he would buy the plant from Richmond and keep it operating in Follansbee.

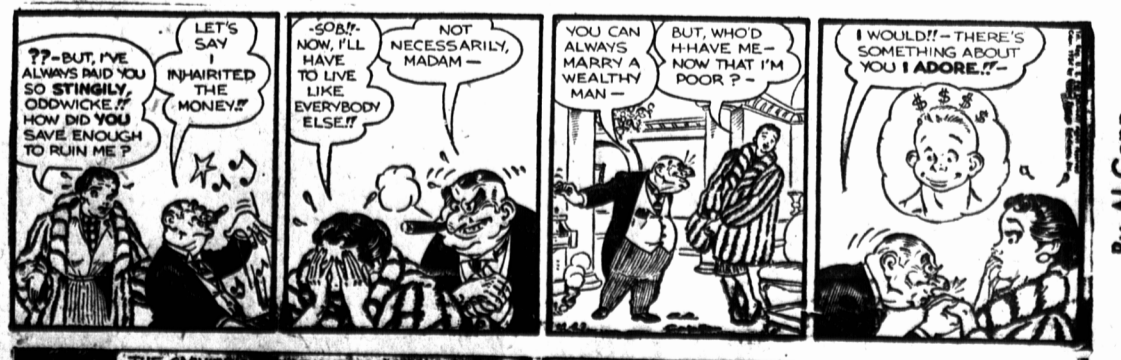
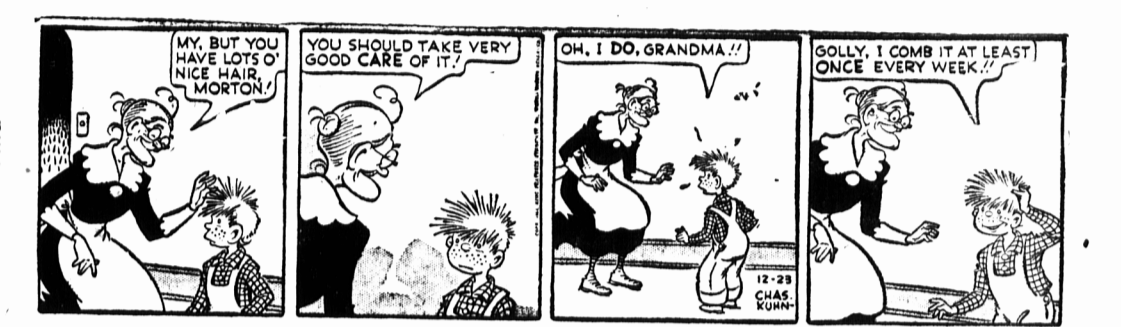
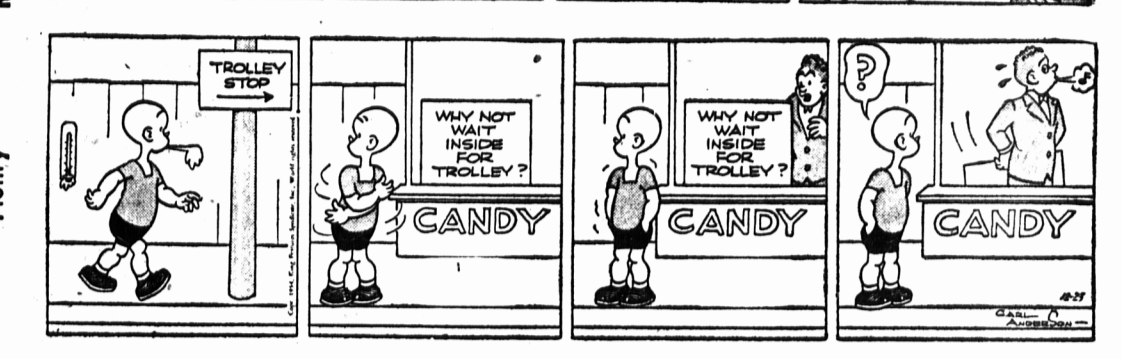
had had a breakfast earlier. King Eagle stood on the stump beside the fish. He was looking up the valley, his fierce yellow eyes seemed to be reaching the distance. Was he looking for someone? Reddy Fox wondered. Could he be saying that fish for someone? Reddy suddenly remembered that he hadn't seen Mrs. Eagle around that morning. Could it be that King Eagle was saying that fish for her? It could be. Reddy is himself a loyal mate and has gone hungry many times that Mrs. Reddy might have needed food.

For some little time King Eagle stood there without moving. One foot was on that fish. How Reddy Fox did wish that he would accidentally kick that fish off on to the ground. But King Eagle did nothing of the kind. He still stood there, looking into the distance. Presently Reddy, looking that way too, saw a speck in the sky. Then he knew what King Eagle was waiting for. He was waiting for Mrs. Eagle to join him. He was saying that fish for her. Just then Reddy saw another fish. It was a dead fish that had just floated out from under the ice into the open water. King Eagle saw it at the same instant, and went after it.



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Bridge — Forty-Fives  
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By George McManus  
By Paul Robinson  
By Al Capp  
By Fred Striker