

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## A HIGH PRICE FOR NOTHING

For every thing there is a price, and often it is far from nice. —Old Mother Nature.

Prowler the Blacksnake was taking a chance. He was entering the home of Rattles the Kingfisher. It was in a hole in a bank, a steep bank, beside the Smiling Pool. The entrance was close to the top of the bank just below the grass roots. That is how it happened that Prowler could get in there. He had seen Mrs. Rattles leave, and had at once taken this chance to creep inside for the dinner he hoped to find there, a dinner of eggs or baby birds, he didn't care which.



He tried to pull it away, and could not.

people in fur and feathers. Daily life is just one chance after another with them.

The tunnel, or hall, leading to the nursery, was much longer than Prowler had thought it would be. He had visited nests of this kind before, but never one with such a long hall. It was more than twice his own length, and you know Prowler was anything but short. He didn't like having to go in so far. It wouldn't be easy to get out quickly. Suddenly, he knew what that dinner would be if he could get it. It wouldn't be eggs; it would be baby birds. Right then and there he forgot everything but the dinner he was sure he was going to get. He began to glide forward a little faster.

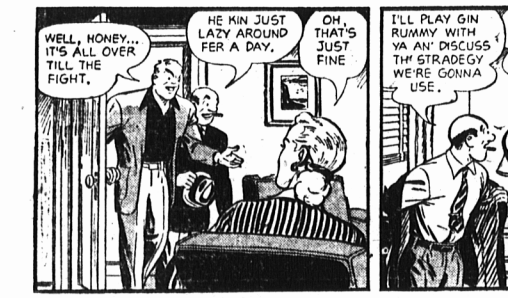
He was inside now, all but a few inches of his tail, and that would be inside in just a second or two more. It was then that Mrs. Rattles happened to return. She saw that tail disappearing in the doorway of her home. With a sharp rattling call, she flew down and grabbed the end of Prowler's tail. He tried to pull it away, and could not. Such a commotion there was at the Smiling Pool! Rattles had heard that call, and now he joined

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STARTING TIME: 8.30

JOE PALOOKA



JIL ABNER



RIP KIRBY



KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED



## Better English

By G. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "I lost my hat some place, and now I'm wearing someone's else."  
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "inexplorable"?  
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Exude, exult, exuberate, exume.  
4. What does the word "pseudonym" mean?  
5. What is a word beginning with exo that means "to drive off an evil spirit"?

**ANSWERS**  
1. Say, "I lost my hat somewhere, and now I'm wearing someone else's." 2. A correct second syllable, not the third. 3. Exume. 4. A fictitious name; a pen name. "His stories were published under the pseudonym of 'Jackson James'." 5. Exorcise.

her. He struck that tail a hard blow with his sharp bill. It hurt. Prowler did his best to draw his tail in. Mrs. Rattles held on. Rattles continued to fly down and strike it with his bill.

Prowler forgot his dinner. He was in real trouble, and he knew it. He doubted back on himself. He was lucky in that there was room outside the doorway. You should have heard the racket then. Such a rattling as there was! Rattles struck at Prowler's head. Prowler struck back at him. He managed to get his tail free from Mrs. Rattles, and she, in turn, struck at him with her stout bill. Prowler tried to get up and out on the bank again. Both those angry birds hit him, and a moment later, Prowler fell down into the water with a splash.

It was lucky for Prowler that he could swim. All snakes can swim. Both Rattles and Mrs. Rattles dived at him. They hit him in spite of the fact that he was partly under water. Hearing the noise, other feathered folk in the neighborhood hurried to see what was going on. None of them had any love for Prowler. He hadn't so much as a single friend among them. They all knew that their eggs and babies would never be safe so long as he was in the neighborhood.

When at long last, Prowler reached the place where he could leave the water and glide away through the grass, he did so as fast as he could. He was followed by all the feathered folk, screaming at the top of their voices. He was thankful enough when in the little swamp at the head of the Smiling Pool he managed to creep out of sight beneath some brush. He had taken a chance, and he had lost. But this didn't mean that he would be afraid to take a chance again. Taking chances was a part of daily life.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Rattles had hurried in to her precious babies. Anxiously, she made sure that all were there. That dreadful Prowler hadn't succeeded in getting one of them.

"They are all here, but this thing

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### RETURNING EVIL FOR GOOD

North should have received a vote of thanks from his partner for his slam bid in the following hand, but actually, South "flubbed" the good contract.

South dealer:  
Both sides vulnerable.

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

North:  
♠ 7 4  
♥ 10 9  
♦ 7 3 2  
♣ Q

West:  
♠ A 10 3  
♥ A K 2  
♦ A  
♣ K J 7 6 4

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣  
4 ♣ Pass 6 ♣ Pass  
Pass Pass

North could not afford to enter the bidding over West's three diamonds, even with his strong club support, because his hand as a whole was weak; but when South announced, by cue-bidding diamonds, that he had a powerhouse, the complexion of North's hand changed radically. Now his trump support took on extra value and importance, and since North might have had to bid five clubs with nothing but length in that suit, and even without a picture-card in his hand, his actual club holding warranted the jump to the slam.

Unfortunately, however, South gave up the hand without even a struggle! West opened a low heart, and after mournfully surveying the dummy, South said: "Well, I guess I can't eat these two low spades."  
South guessed wrong. It was simply itself to salvage one of the spade losers and thus fulfill the high information bidding by East and West. Clearly pointed out the right line of play. This was to win the first trick, draw the necessary round of trumps, and then to cash the diamond ace and the second heart trick. Now South might as well lay down the spade ace and verify West's void. Next, ruff the heart deuce in dummy; then lead the diamond queen and discard a spade from the closed hand. West thrown in with this diamond trick, would have to return a red card, and declarer would of course ruff this in dummy while getting rid of his last spade.

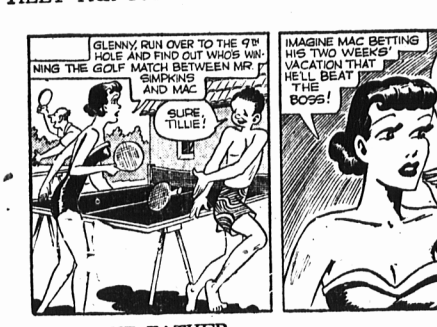
wouldn't have happened if you hadn't insisted on making our home way up under the edge of the bank. If we had made it where I wanted to, that Snake never could have reached it," declared Mrs. Rattles. He said nothing.

By Ham Fisher

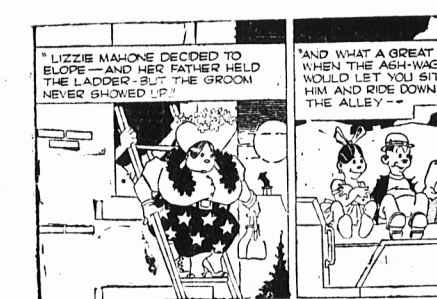
## DOTTY DRIPPLE



## TILLY THE TOILER



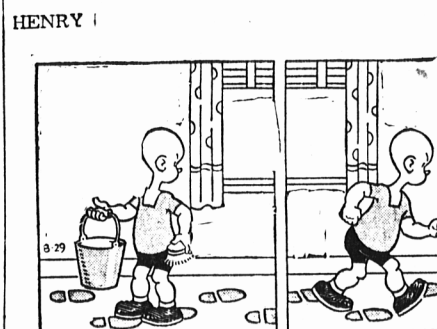
## BRINGING UP FATHER



## TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



## HENRY



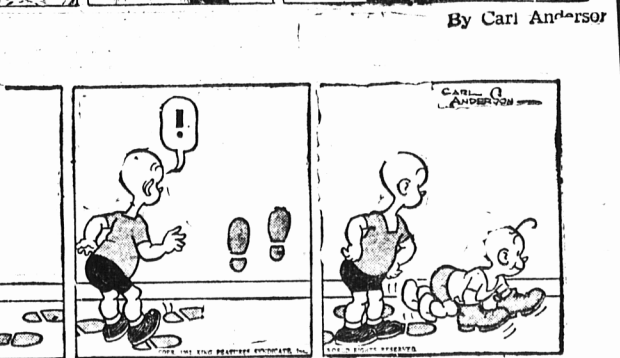
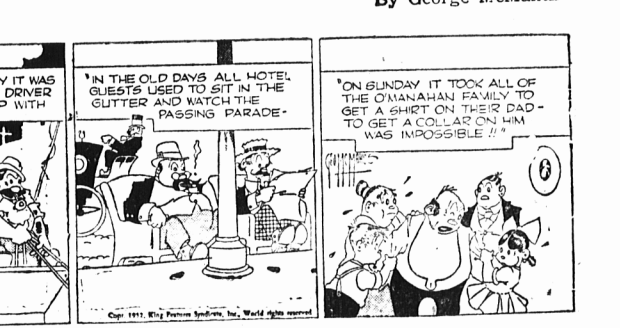
## POGO



## Napoleon and Uncle Elby



## PENNY



By Rutord

By George McManus

By George McManus

By Edwina

By Carl Anderson

By Walt Kelly

By Clifford McBride

By Harry Hoeningen