

By Robert L. May

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

## COUSINS DISAGREE

A great misfortune it would be, should no one ever disagree.

Young Too-Smart, son of Reddy Fox, was now really out in the Great World. He had thought he was out in the Great World before, because he had been living alone and had been getting all his food for himself. But it had been in the familiar neighborhood in which he was born. Now that neighborhood was left behind, and he was wandering through strange surroundings, looking for a place where he could find good hunting and make a home for himself.

On the edge of a swamp he unexpectedly came face to face with another fox, a complete stranger. This fox wore a gray coat instead

of a red one. He was just a little smaller, but only a little. He was Cousin Gray.

Young Too-Smart hadn't known that he had such a cousin. He stared at the other somewhat impatiently. The other stared right back. He demanded to know what Young Too-Smart was doing there.

"Seeing the Great World," replied the young fox, with an air of self-importance.

"Well, you better go somewhere else to see it," replied Cousin Gray. "No newcomers are wanted in this neighborhood."

"Who is going to stop men if I want to stay?" retorted the young Red Fox.

"Just try it, and you'll find out," replied Cousin Gray. He tried to make himself look as big as he could. But his cousin in the red coat wasn't fooled. He saw that he



"What's the matter with it?" demanded Cousin Gray.

was just a little bigger than Cousin Gray.

"If I want to stay, I'll stay," he declared. "It isn't just the sort of country I like."

"What's the matter with it?" demanded Cousin Gray.

"To many trees. Too much Green Forest. I like more open places, fields and pastures, bushes," said Young Too-Smart.

Cousin Gray shook his head. "Not for me," said he. "Give me woods and swamps where trees grow near together. Open country is all right to visit once in a while, but not to live in."

"What's the matter with it to live in?"

"It isn't safe. It isn't easy to keep out of sight there, and what can you do if a dog gets after you," replied Cousin Gray.

"Run," replied Young Too-Smart promptly, "Run until you can play a trick on him and break your trail."

"I don't like running," replied Cousin Gray. "Give me a tree every time."

The eyes of Young Too-Smart opened very wide. "Give you a tree-?" he exclaimed. "What do you want of a tree?"

"To climb of course. What else would I want of it?" replied Cousin Gray testily.

The young fox blinked. "Say that again," said he. "I don't think I heard you right."

"I said I wanted a tree handy to climb," said Cousin Gray. "Is that plain enough?"

"Foxes don't climb," said Young Too-Smart in a most decided tone.

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKED TWICE

West had two chances to defeat the slam contract in the hand below, and missed out in both.

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

♠ KQ852, ♣ Q82, ♦ 865, ♠ 74

♠ J43, ♣ A87, ♦ 54, ♠ K962



♠ 10, ♣ A87, ♦ 54, ♠ K962

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass 4♥  
 5♦ Pass 5♥ Pass 5♥  
 6♦ Pass Pass 5♥  
 7♦ Pass Pass 5♥

There is no thoroughly satisfactory or "scientific" way of bidding a hand like South's, and although the six-diamond bid was unquestionably a shot in the dark, it was by no means illogical. Observe that South had the right to expect a better dummy on the mere strength of North's free spade bid (which was a distinct stretch).

Considering the fact that East had doubled the slam contract, which he scarcely would have done on heart strength, West might well have thought about some opening lead other than his own suit — preferably of course, a club — but apparently he could not steel himself to anything so daring. He laid down the heart ace. South ruffed with the nine and led the spade ten toward dummy. West played low — and so did dummy! South saw that it would do him good to get one discard on dummy's spades, and so his only chance, as far as he could see, was that West had the jack and had neglected to cover.

East was not pleased to waste his spade ace, but neither could he refuse the trick. After taking

Continued on page 11

## Rudolph—and the Blue Nosed Reindeer



By Bob Gustafson

## Tilly The Toiler



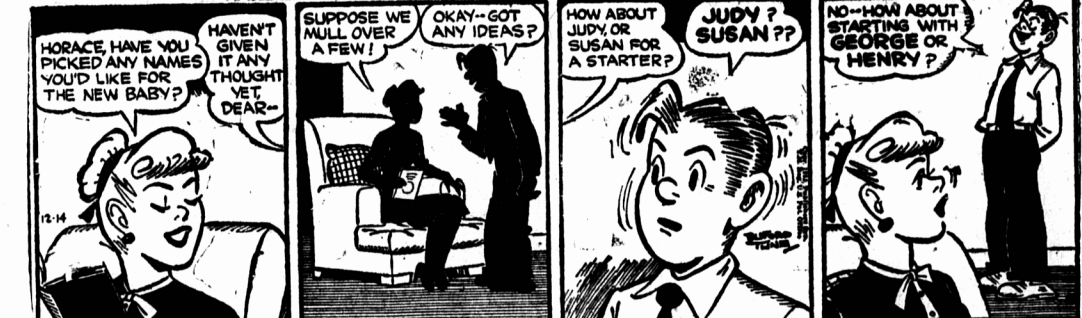
By George McManus

## Bringing Up Father



By Buford

## Dotty Dripple



By Edwina

## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs



By Walt Kelly

## Pogo



By Clifford McBride

## Napoleon and Uncle Elby



By Harry Hoagland

## PENNY



## Henry



By Carl Anderson

## Li'l Abner



By Al Capp

## Joe Palooka



By Ham Fisher

## Rip Kirby



By Alex Raymond

## King of The Royal Mounted



By Zane Grey