



BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess
FLATHORNS IS PUT TO SHAME
Who boasts and brags to make a name
Will in the end be put to shame.
—Old Mother Nature.

Flathorns the Moose, largest member of the Deer family, was filled with pride. It is a good thing to have pride, but not to have too much of it, and not to show it. Flathorns had too much pride, and he was showing it too much. The truth is Flathorns had become a boaster. He bragged about his strength. He boasted that he feared no one and nothing. He spent a lot of his time showing off. He had quite forgotten how only a few months before, he had been keeping out of sight of everyone in so far as possible because he was ashamed.



cause he no longer had great antlers or horns, which were the pride of his heart. He had forgotten how helpless he felt then while the new antlers were growing. Now those antlers were not only fully grown, but had become fully hardened, and had become the biggest antlers he had ever worn on that homely head of his. He had polished every point by rubbing them against the trunks of trees. He had one special rubbing tree on which he polished those antlers whenever he happened that way. Also, he had recovered the strength which he had lost during the summer. Now the weather was cool. The leaves of the Green Forest were yellow and red and brown, and the Green Forest was very, very beautiful. Flathorns was feeling so very, very fine that he just couldn't keep still. He spent much time roaming about, and whenever he suspected anyone was watching him he would show off. He would show how strong he was and how unafraid. He would do this by thrashing and beating the bushes with his great antlers as if they were an enemy he was fighting. He would paw the ground with the big hoofs of his front feet. Sometimes he would rear on his hind feet, and strike down with his front feet as if he were striking an enemy. He would grunt, and blow and snort, and try to make everyone who saw and heard him afraid of him.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

CONCERNING FINESSES

Ask any reasonably experienced player whether he knows all there is to be known about finessses, and he will probably answer with an indignant "yes" — his reaction being that finessses are the most elementary plays in bridge. Yet, he shouldn't be too sure of himself, even in this respect! Consider the following hand, taken from a national pair tournament.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for South and North. South: A 7 4, 5, 9 6, A Q 9 7 6 4 2, 10 6 5, J 10 9 6, Q 8 5 2, K 3. North: K 9 3, K 8 4 3, 2, J 10 7 4, 3, Q J 8 2, A Q 7, A K, J 10 8 5.

Many North-South pairs reached six clubs, which was of course an excellent contract, but very few declarers brought home the slam. Only two or three found the key play — the only play which carried a guarantee of success.

At most of the tables the bidding was simple and direct, namely, one club by South, pass by West, six clubs by North — pass, pass, pass. In every case the opening lead was the heart jack, and the majority of declarers lost the hand by playing directly to the club ace, disdaining the finesse and depending on simple "probabilities".

The "guaranteed" line of play went as follows: South took the first trick with the heart queen (East having ducked), cashed the heart ace, discarding a spade from dummy, then ruffed the heart seven on the board. Now South cashed his two diamonds. With the spade set, South led the club jack and, when West played the three, took the finesse.

That was all there was to it — but it would be a grave error to conclude that South simply made a lucky guess in the club suit, or to sniff that a player doesn't deserve much credit for taking a simple finesse. The fact of the matter is that no guess was involved, and that South's trump finesse, in defiance of the 11 trumps at his disposal, was an absolute safety play. If the finesse held, South would of course be safe; and if it lost, South would still be safe! If East had the club king, it had to be blank, and any return he made would let South avoid the spade loser.

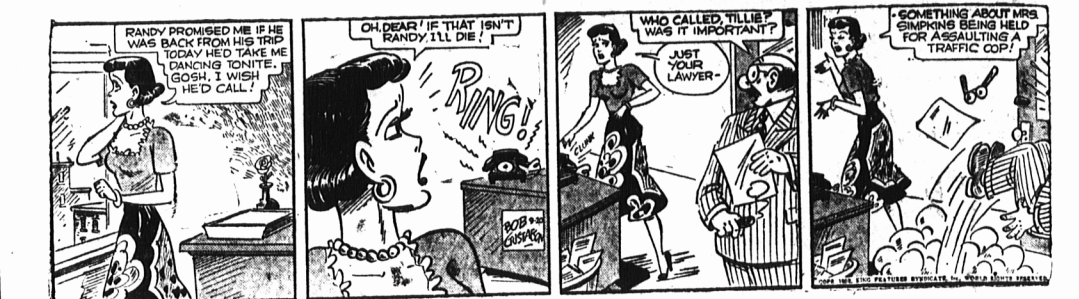
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HENRY



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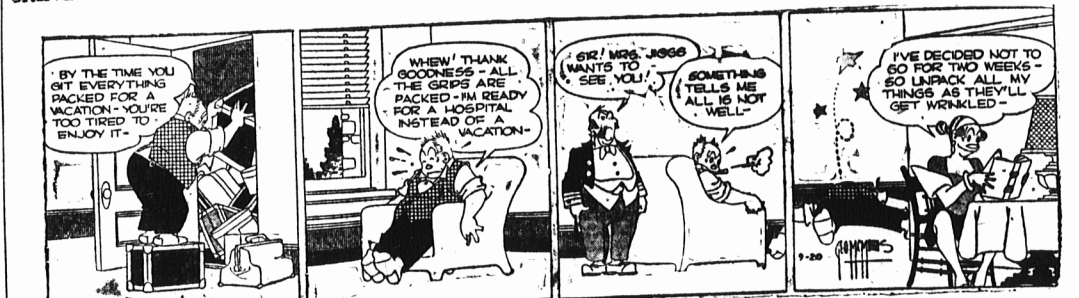
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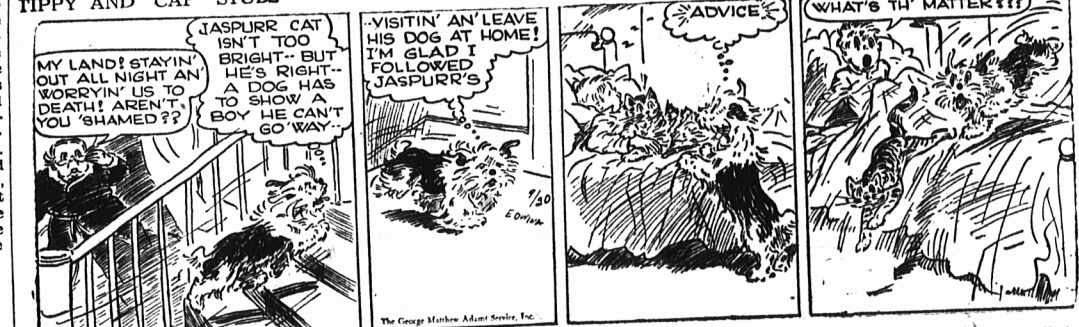
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BRINGING UP FATHER



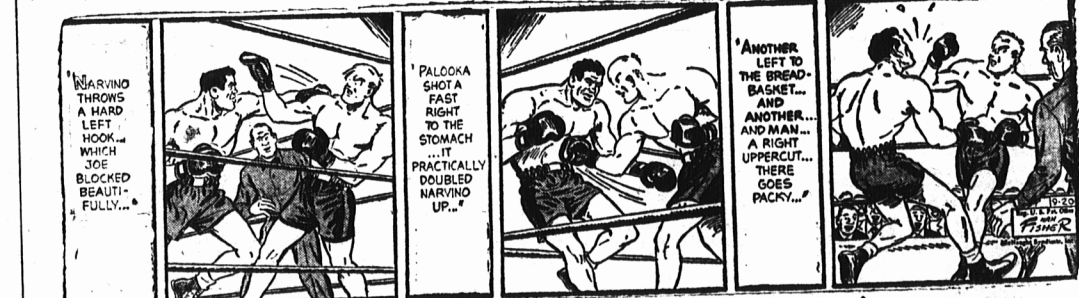
By George McManus

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS



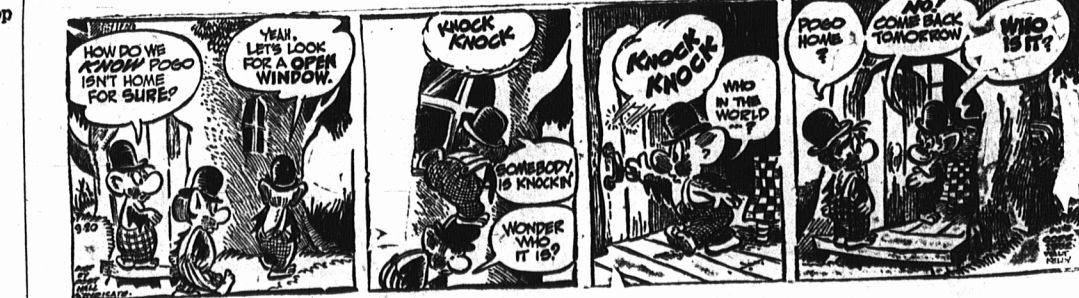
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