BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

POOR OLD MR. TOAD

Who knows just what he best can do
And does it, little has to rue.
—Old Mr Toad.

"Poor Old Mr. Toad," said Mrs. Peter Rabbit over in the Dear Old Briar-patch as Peter told her how Old Mr. Toad had fallen in a big hole in a corner of Farmer Brown's garden.

"Can't he possibly jump out if he jumps his very hardest?" asked Mrs. Peter.

Peter shook his head. "He tried and tried, but he couldn't jump even halfway up to the edge," said Peter. "If I were down in there, I think I could jump out. But Jimmy Skunk was afraid to jump down lest he couldn't get out. Said he wasn't hungry."

"So poor Old Mr. Toad is still in that hole, I suppose," said Mrs. Peter.

"If he isn't, it is because someone has taken him out and we will never see him again" replied Peter.

"Who could or what would do that to him?" cried little Mrs Peter.

"Reddy Fox could," declared Peter. "He could jump down in that hole and out again with no trouble at all."

"Perhaps he doesn't know Old Mr. Toad is there" said Mrs. Peter hopefully.

"He does," retorted Peter. He spoke positively as if he knew whereof he spoke.

"How do you know that?" demanded little Mrs. Peter sharply.

"I saw him over there early this morning," confessed Peter.

"What were you doing over there with Reddy Fox when you should have been at home here in the safe Dear Old Briar-patch?" Mrs. Peter sounded provoked. She was provoked.

"I wasn't over there," protested. "I was on my way home from the Smiling Pool. I heard Blacky the Crow making a great fuss over there in the garden where the hole is, and I could see Reddy's red coat If Reddy wasn't wearing it, Mrs. Reddy was, but I'm sure it was Reddy. He couldn't help but see poor Old Mr. Toad. There wasn't a thing in that hole for him to hide under, not a thing."

"What were you over at the Smiling Pool for? There is nothing for you to eat there." Mrs. Peter looked at Peter suspiciously.

"I was doing an errand for Mr. Toad," explained Peter. He spoke hurriedly.

"What kind of an errand?" demanded Mrs. Peter.

"I was looking for Old Mrs. Toad." Peter explained. "He wanted me to tell her why he was late in getting to the Smiling Pool and now might be later. You know that is where he meets her and sings to her every spring. He usually gets there first after their winter sleep."

"Nobody ever sings to me in the spring or any other time," said Mrs. Peter plaintively.

Peter pretended not to hear. "I couldn't find her" said Peter.

"Why not?" asked Mrs. Peter.

Peter chuckled. "In water all Toads look alike to me," said he.

"Here comes Blacky the Crow," said Mrs. Peter. "Perhaps he knows if Reddy Fox got Old Mr. Toad."

Sure enough, Blacky was headed that way. He came down on the ground just in front of where Peter and Mrs. Peter were sitting.

"Did he get him?" asked Peter eagerly.

Blacky turned to look at Peter. "Just what are you talking about, Peter Rabbit" he asked in his harsh voice.

"Did Reddy Fox Catch poor Old Mr. Toad in that hole?" spoke up Mrs. Peter.

There was a gleam of mischief in Blacky's eyes as he replied. "Reddy didn't see anybody in that hole," said he. "He isn't even sure anybody has been in that hole." Then he took to his black wings before Peter could ask what had became of poor Old Mr. Toad.

"Did Reddy Fox catch poor Old Mr. Toad in that hole?" spoke up Mrs. Peter.

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SIGNIFICANT BIDDING

The bidding —or, to be more accurate, the lack of an opposing bid — was the key to the play in the following hand.

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The Bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	5 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West laid down the king of clubs and East played his lowest card in the suit. West should have made a prompt shift to hearts, but he apparently felt that nothing could be lost by another club lead, so he continued with the queen.

South ruffed the second club, drew the necessary one round of trumps, then tried the heart finesse. East won and returned a heart to the ace. Declarer soon tried the spade finesse, to dummy's jack, but that also failed him, and he was down one.

It is true that by taking both finesses, the heart and the spade, South had a mathematical change of 3-4 in his favor, but if he had given more thought to the bidding, he might have discovered the line of play which was about 99% sure.

West, who had shown the A-K of clubs, had passed originally, and had passed again over one diamond. Thus, although he might have the spade queen, he was certainly not apt to have the king of hearts! In any event South was in a position to do some checking-up, and to increase his chances substantially. The logical plan was to lead a trump to dummy and ruff the club jack. With East failing to produce the club queen, that card also would be marked with West, and now South could be sure that the heart king was offside, so the common-sense move was to cash the heart ace and lead the heart queen. East, thrown in, would either have to lead a spade to dummy's tenace, or, by returning a heart or club, give South a ruff-and-discard.

Finally, observe that even if, by a miracle, West had the heart king, he too would have to lead spades, and by ducking in dummy, South would still have an excellent chance to avoid losing a spade trick.

SCENES OF VALOR

LONDON —(CP) —In a summer pilgrimage, thousands of D-Day veterans will once more land in Normandy. The pilgrims will visit Caen, scene of bitter fightings after the landings of June 6, 1944, and later may make a conducted tour of the battlefields of the Second World War.

INDIAN TOBACCO

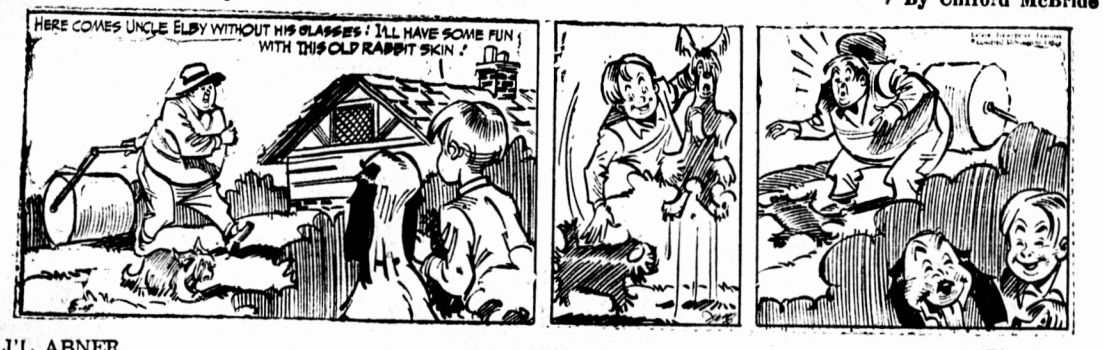
NEW DELHI — (CP) — A new tobacco research station is being constructed in Madhira in Hyderabad State. Virginia tobacco is mostly cultivated in this area and the station will supply improved varieties of tobacco plant seedlings.

POGO

By Walt Kelly

Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



LI'L ABNER

By Al Capp

RIP KIRBY

By Alex Raymond

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

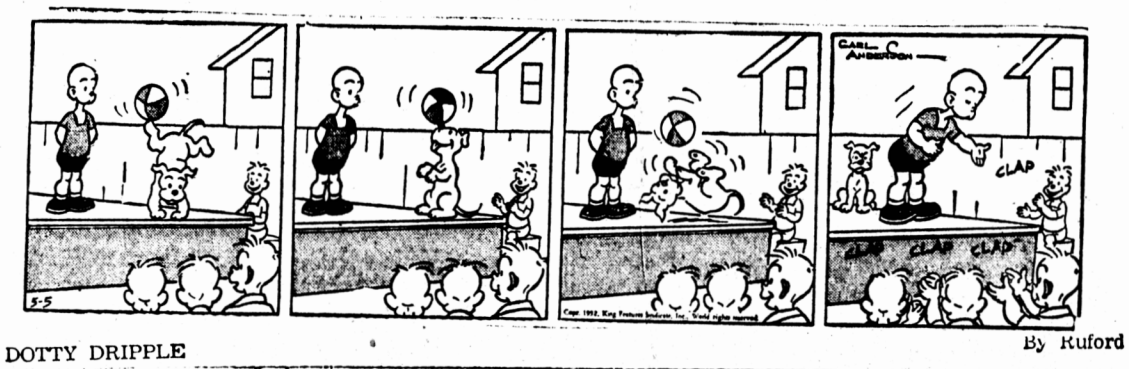
By Zane Grey

By Ham Fisher

JOE PALOOKA

By Carl Anderson

HENRY



By Ruford

DOTTY DRIPPLE

TIPPY AND "CAP" STUBS

By Edwina

BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus

TILLY THE TOILER

By Bob Gustafson

PENNY

By Harry Haenigsen