

# BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

**AN AWFUL MOMENT**

You very often hear it said  
The hardest thing to bear is  
I read.

—Mrs. Lightfoot.

Mrs. Lightfoot knows. No one is ever filled with greater dread than Mrs. Lightfoot from time to time. Right now she was really suffering from dread of what might happen. She was standing in a thicket from which she was watching a mother bear and her cubs. She had a very precious secret. Shuffling a long way outside that thicket was Mother Bear. Behind Mother Bear were two black imps of mischief. They were her cubs. They were supposed to keep right at her heels, but they were not doing it. They were running from side to side, hoping to find something to eat, or just out of curiosity because of things they saw and had to examine.

Now and then Mother Bear turned her head to look back. Then

had poked his head into that thicket. Would he go wholly in? Did he suspect something in there? A moment later his small sister joined him. Mrs. Lightfoot was filled with such dread as only an anxious mother can know. She longed with a great longing that it was difficult to resist. She longed to dash out and drive those mischievous cubs away. Had they been alone she would have done it. They were too small for her to be at all



Behind Mother Bear were the black imps of mischief.

afraid of them. But Mother Bear was still in sight, and Mrs. Lightfoot didn't dare move. It wasn't for herself that Mrs. Lightfoot was afraid. It was for what might happen should her precious secret be discovered. Of course, you have guessed what that secret was. Hidden in that thicket were two of the prettiest and most helpless babies in all the Green Forest. They were only two days old. Should Mother Bear find them they would be perfectly helpless, and so would their mother.

It seemed as if Mother Bear had forgotten the cubs. She shuffled along without looking back. One of them, Taddy Bear, pushed his way into that thicket. A moment later his twin sister, Totty Bear, followed him. They began to poke around in that thicket. Never in her life had Mrs. Lightfoot so longed to do something, yet she didn't dare move. If she should dash into that thicket and drive those cubs out, Mother Bear would be sure to hear her and come back to find out what was going on.

Would those inquisitive little cubs find her precious babies living flat on the ground, unable to help themselves in any way? Poor Mrs. Lightfoot. She couldn't even go to see what was going on. If those cubs should find her own little fawns, it would be purely by accident. She

(Continued on page 14)

## Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

### CAMOUFLAGE

A really hopeless defensive position can sometimes be made to look quite different to the adversary. Consider West's adroit false-carding in this hand:

South Dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

♠ A K J 7  
♥ A Q 9 5 4  
♦ J 10  
♣ J 3

♠ Q 9 5 4  
♥ 6 2  
♦ 9 7 3  
♣ 10 7

N  
E  
S

♠ 6 2  
♥ A K Q 8 5 4  
♦ K 6 4 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
3♦ Pass 3♥ Pass  
4♦ Pass 6♣ Pass

South's preemptive opening was questionable, at best; one diamond was a perfectly sound approach. The really remarkable bidding, however, was supplied by North, who had to stretch all the farther in reaching the six-level after the shutout opening. True, there was a play for the slam contract, but it was very far from ideal!

If West had opened a trump he would have given South something to think about, but, not unnatural-ly, West chose his fourth-highest club. East, hoping that the lead would be from the king, returned a club, but of course South won. He then ruffed a club on the board, cashed his heart ace and ruffed a heart, then ruffed his last club.

Now all South had to do was return to his own hand and draw trumps. He seemed to sense the danger in another heart ruff; he cashed the top spades, preparatory to ruffing a third round of that suit. Unfortunately for him, however, something happened on the second round of spades: West played the queen!

That, South decided, settled the question; apparently, East had started with five spades. So South veered back to the idea of ruffing another heart—with a result that is plain. Whether he ruffed this third heart high or low, West was sure to win a trump trick.

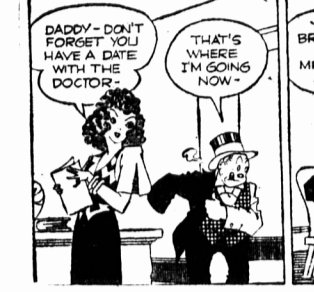
West's hoax play was of course well conceived. West knew, at the critical point, that South was reduced to trumps, so it couldn't cost anything to set up the spade jack, whereas by dropping the queen West might confuse South.

### ROYAL TASK

CANBERRA, Australia CP — Queen Elizabeth will make 35 flights totalling 10,000 miles during her visit to Australia next February. She will travel another 2,500 miles by train and automobile.

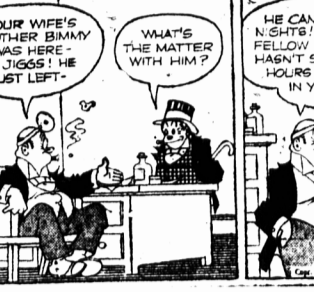
## Bringing Up Father

By George McManus



## Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



## Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



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## King Of The Royal Mounted

By Zane Grey



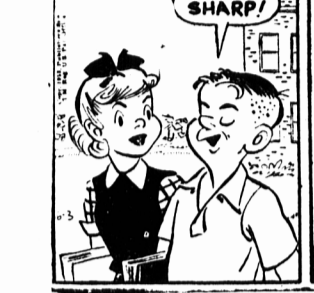
## Contract Bridge

By Ham Fisher



## Dotty Dripple

By Ruford



## Tilly The Toiler

By Bob Gustafson



## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



## Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



## Joe Palooka

By Ham Fisher



## Contract Bridge

By Al Capp



## Tippy and "Cap" Stubs

By Edwina



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## Henry

By Carl Anderson



## Pogo

By Walt Kelly



## Lil Abner

By Al Capp



## Contract Bridge

By Alex Raymond



## Henry

By Carl Anderson



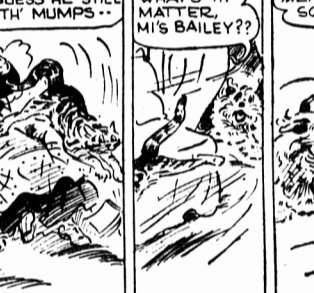
## Pogo

By Walt Kelly



## Rip Kirby

By Harry Haenigsen



## Penny

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