

BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By THORNTON W. BURGESS
What misery means to you may be a jolly, merry time to me.
—Little Joe Otter.
One Who Enjoyed the Winter.
While the winter was so hard for

knew nothing about it didn't mind it.
But there were a few who were awake.
very much awake, yet did not mind it.
One of these was Jerry Muskrat.
Jerry spent practically all his time in
his house or swimming about under
the ice. It didn't make any difference
to him how bad the storms were

or how bitter the cold; down under
the ice it was always the same.
Paddy the Beaver was another who
cared nothing for the storms and the
cold. He lived much as Jerry did. He
slept in comfort in his fine house, and
the more snow the warmer that house
was. When he wanted food he swam
out under the ice to his storehouse.

not a log, took it back to his house
and ate the bark in comfort. To both
Jerry and Paddy the winter was a
time for rest and they enjoyed it.
Billy Mink was still another who
didn't care much what the weather
was. There were just as many fish
in the Laughing Brook in winter as
in summer, and so Billy seldom went

hungry. But the one who really en-
joyed the winter was Little Joe Ot-
ter. He, too, lived on fish, and in
some ways he found it even easier to
catch them than it was in summer.
There were not so many hiding places
for them. There were no lily pads
for them to hide under. So when he

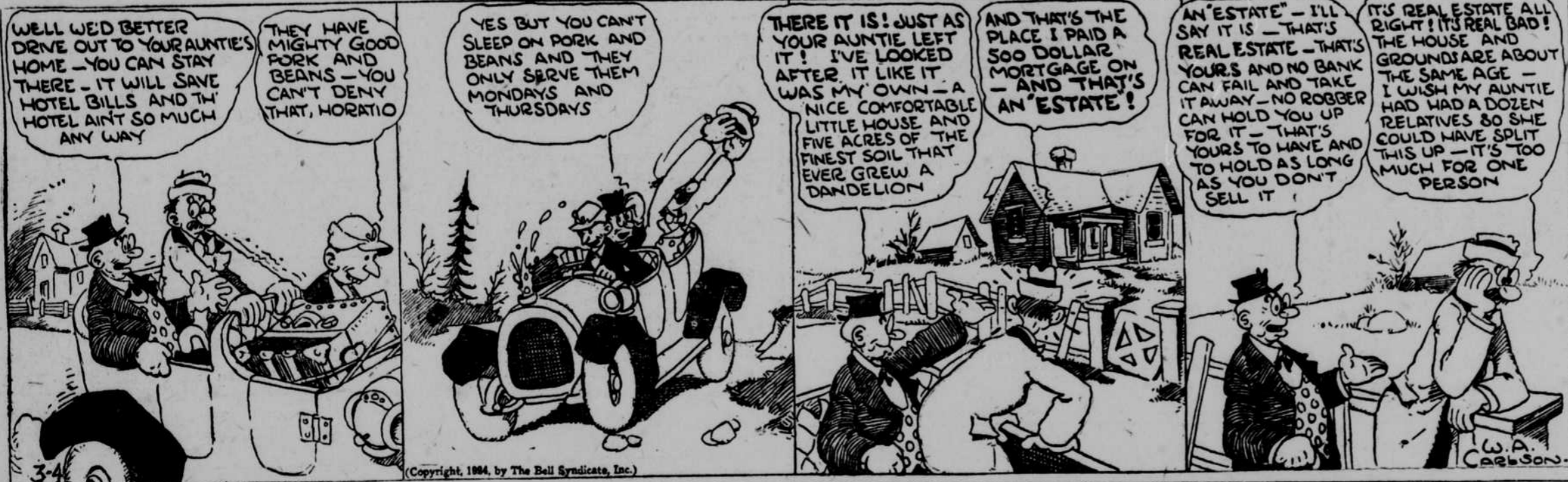
wanted a fish he seldom had any
trouble in finding one.
But Little Joe liked the cold
weather, the snow and the ice, for
the fun he had. His fur coat was
thick and warm. Jack Frost never
could pinch him. Rough Brother
North Wind never could make him
uncomfortable. When it stormed
hard he simply kept in a snug shelter
and waited until it was over. And
just as soon as it was over he was
out traveling. He dearly loves to
travel, does Little Joe Otter. The
only thing he didn't like was deep,
soft snow. His legs are short, you
know, and then it was hard work to
get about. But just as soon as the
snow had packed, down or had
formed an icy crust, Little Joe was
in high spirits.

slippery slide he had made down a
steep bank of the Laughing Brook
where the water didn't freeze. Ever
and over so many times a day he
would slide down that, and splash
into the water. It was great fun.
It was such fun that he really could
not understand why he was the only
one who did it.
"This is great weather!" cried Little
Joe to Billy Mink, who was
watching him slide. "Come on and
try my slippery slide."
Billy Mink shook his head. "It
looks like a lot of fun," said he,
"but I don't know how to do it."
"Then show me," replied Little Joe
Otter, and away he went down the
slippery slide.
(Copyright, 1924.)
The next story: "Little Joe Otter
Shows How to Slide."

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