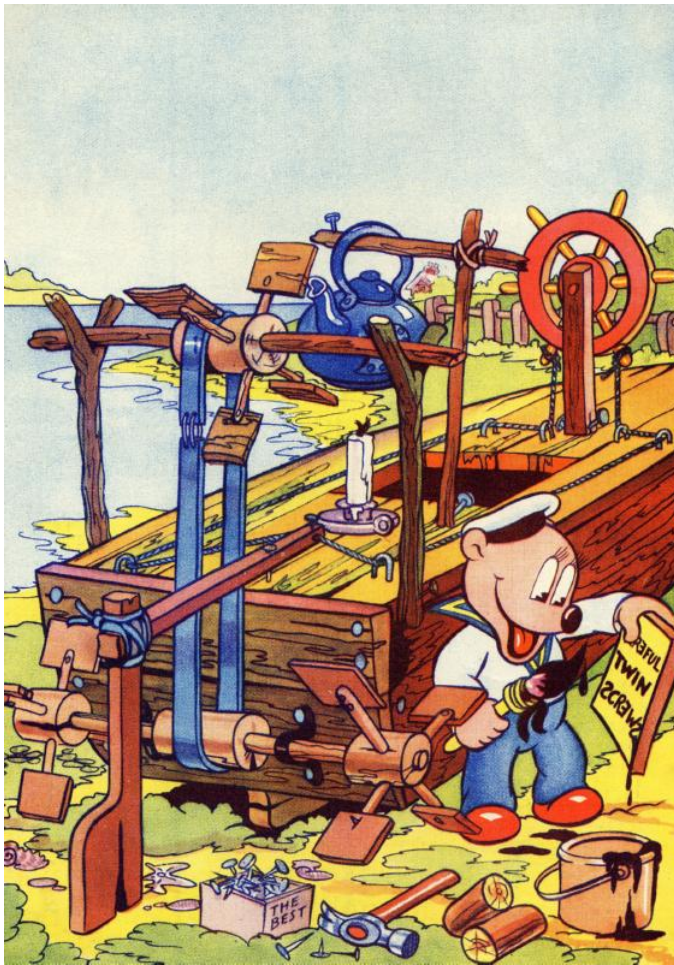


## *The Bruins – 5 Search for Gold*

YOU never saw such a wonderful ship as the one the Bruins made for their expedition. It contained all manner of gadgets and a special method of turning the paddle wheels.



" Yes," agreed Father Bruin, as he looked at the vessel. " It certainly looks good, but will it float ? "

" Of course it will," answered Bertie. " It wouldn't be any good if it didn't ! "

" Hum ! " mused the speaker's father. " That's what's worrying me; but let's get it launched and see, what we shall see. All together now... PUSH ! "

The whole family pushed and heaved and at last the vessel entered the water. All the Bruins watched anxiously for some minutes but, thank goodness, the ship floated and little time, was lost in hoisting the flag Belinda had made specially for the occasion, and steaming away.

We have seen that the home-made ship floated all right, but we have been like the Bruins in not knowing how LONG it would float on the briny. As a matter of fact, it was in a sinking condition as it arrived off the Island of Treasure, and it plunged to the bottom just as the party were preparing to land.

Naturally they all got a bit wet, but that didn't matter very much. They were there they still had the old parchment map and, with luck, they would soon have the treasure that would enable them to return home to their far-off farm.



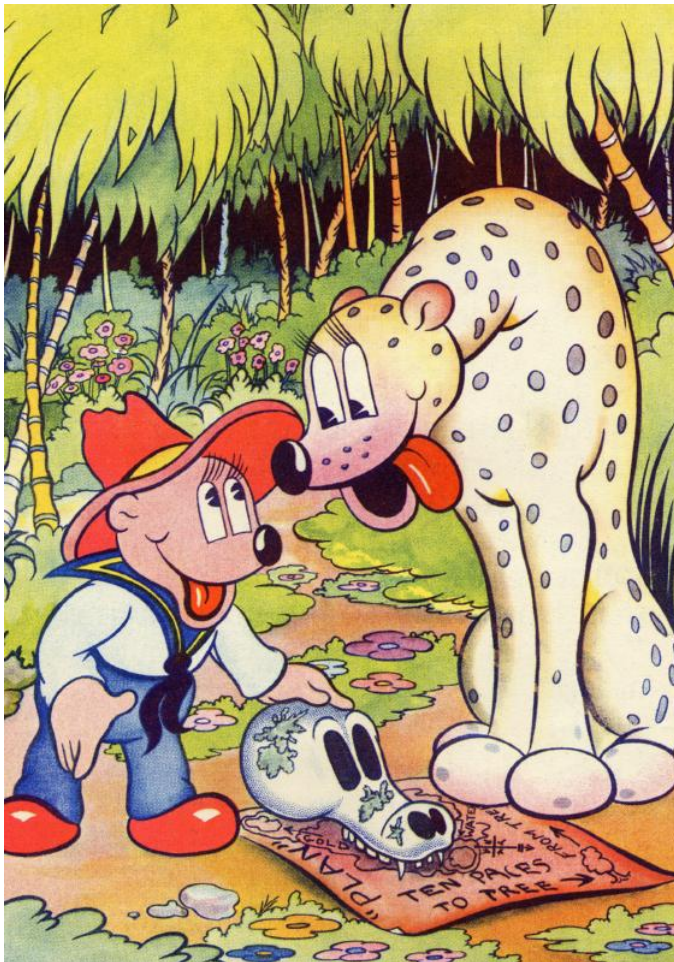
"It's a nice island isn't it" began Bertie, as he advanced into the jungle. Then he stopped short and his eyes nearly popped out of his head.

"Oo-er!" he whispered. "W--who are y-you?"

"I am the guardian of the treasure!" growled a huge, spotted animal that faced him. "Who are YOU?"

"Please I'm Bertie Bruin and I've come to fetch the treasure of gold."

The animal's jaws stretched into a smile. " Glad to know you," he answered, " I've been expecting you Listen ! "



And he began to whisper in Bertie's ear.

Ten minutes later Bertie Bruin came rushing back to where he had left the rest of the family. I've almost got it ! " he shouted, " Come, Belinda, you come with me. Father and mother had better rest, See you later ! " he called over his shoulder, " But not much later, I hope. "

Then, with the words of the guardian of the treasure ringing in his ears, the gallant Bertie made for a certain deserted spot, faced the wind and waited.

It was a long wait for Belinda and Bertie and soon the former began to think that her brother had made a mistake. " Are you sure a wind will come ? " she asked.

" It's COMING ! " shouted Bertie "Face it ! Face it ! "

With a swish and a swirl a hot wind arrived and with it came little pieces of gold which stuck to their faces. The guardian of the treasure was right ! " shouted an excited Bertie.

"Hurry up, Belinda, take one of the spades and walk straight into this golden wind."

On and on they walked until, at last, they arrived at the place where the dust was being blown up by the wind, the place where the golden chunks were buried. Almost by magic the wind died away and Bertie and Belinda seized the spades and commenced to dig and dig and dig.



Never had the children worked so hard and soon they were to be rewarded when Bertie, at the bottom of the deep hole he had dug, shovelled up huge chunks of lovely yellow gold.

Belinda clambered out of the hole and shouted with glee as the nuggets fell all around her. "Hurrah!" she cheered. "Hurrah for the old Indian of the bazaar. Hurrah for the guardian of the

treasure. Hurrah for you. Hurrah for me. Hurrah for everybody."

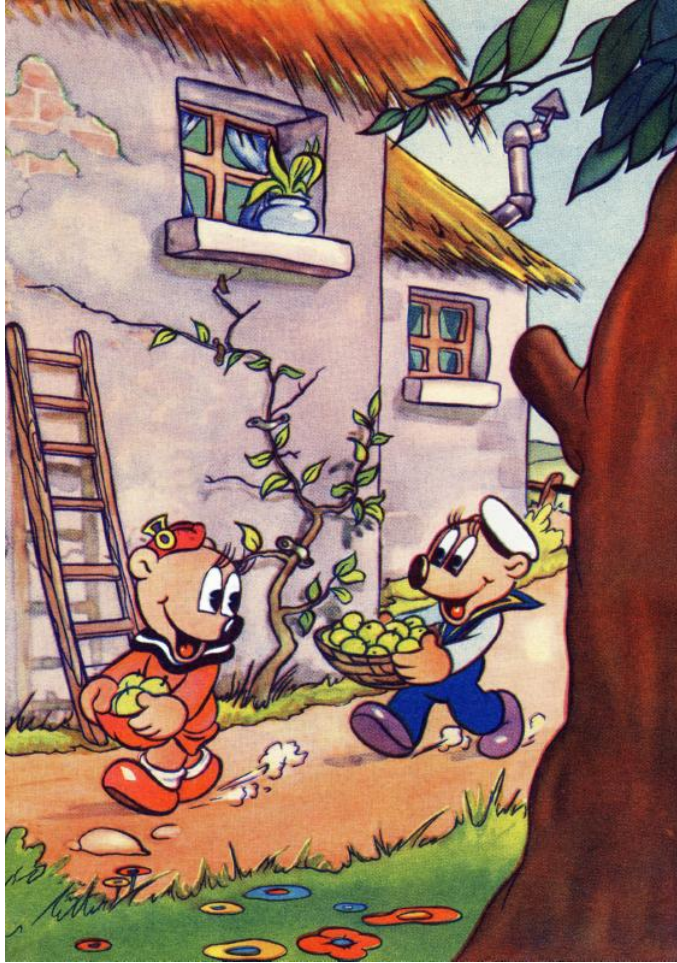
In the end the two collected all the gold and staggered off with it back to where Mother and Father Bruin were waiting by the beach. You can be sure that there was a good deal of happy laughter on that beach and even more when the sound of a ship's siren floated across the water and a steamer appeared in sight.

The captain of the steamer had heard of the sinking of the Bruins' home-made ship and had hurried to the island to fetch the castaways.

"Of course I'll take you back home!" he cried genially. "And of course I will accept gold in payment for your passage. Bring it aboard and I'll weigh it."

The weighing of the gold took a long time but finally it was all done, the precious metal was stowed away in the hold of the ship, the anchor was hoisted and, with all the Bruins waving farewell to the ex-guardian of the treasure, who waved gaily back to them, they set off for home.





" We have had a good time, haven't we ? " murmured Father Bruin.

" Rather ! " agreed the children. In chorus. " But we'll be glad to get back to those lovely sweet, juicy and crisp apples. "

Father Bruin smiled. " Don't forget the medicine for pains-under-the-pinny ! " he said.

**THE END**