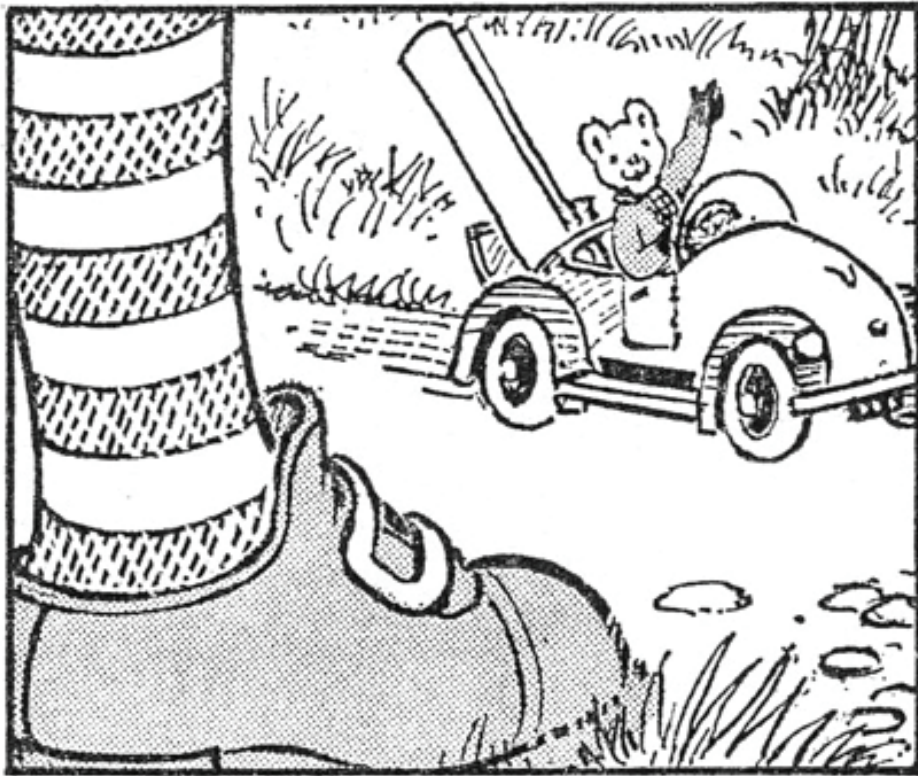


RUPERT

in the

Daily Express



Rupert and Hugo's Present

Contents

~

Page 3 – Snowgazing - original artwork by Paul Ross-Dale

Page 4 – Rupert and Hugo's Present (P76)

Page 17 – Mary Tourtel's When Animals Work:
images from the 1919 Daily Express

Page 19 – Follow Rupert in the Nutwood Newsletter -
original artwork by Paul Ross-Dale

~



The story featured here is taken from the newspaper cuttings contained within the Freddie Chaplain archive records.

Story numbering relates to the listing of stories in **The Rupert Index**.
Stories selected by John Beck, laid out by Pamela Stones and image cleaning by John Kobylecky.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

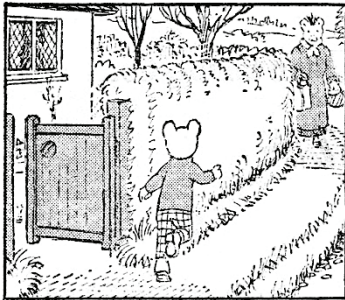
by Alex Cubie and Freddie Chaplain

12th November 1975 to 27th December 1975

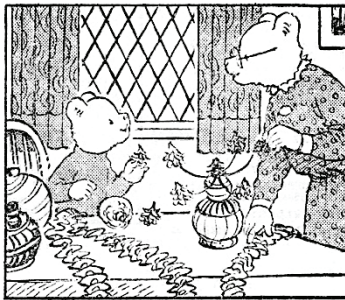
(P76)

This is a Freddie Chaplain scripted story illustrated by Alex Cubie that appeared in the Daily Express from 12th November 1975 to 27th December 1975 and has not been reprinted until now. Episodes 1 to 3 did not appear in the London edition due to an industrial dispute.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—1

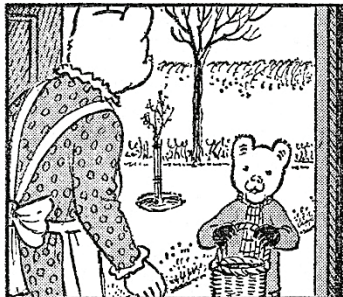


Mrs. Bear has gone to the village to do some Christmas shopping, and Rupert eagerly awaits her return, wandering in and out of the cottage to see if she is in sight. "Here comes Mummy," he says at last, hurrying along the lane to welcome her. "Have you bought lots of nice things?" he asks, while he helps her to carry the bags indoors. "Yes,

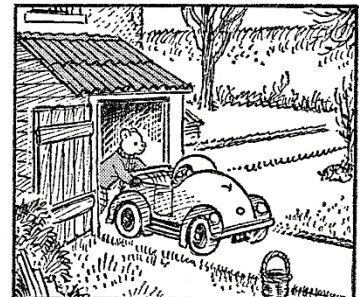


mostly Christmas decorations," smiles Mrs. Bear. "But oh dear, what a price they are!" She spreads her purchases on the table, and among them is an ornament made of pine cones. "Ooo, I like that best," says Rupert. "So do I," says Mummy. "But it was the most expensive of all. I could only afford to buy one."
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—2



After admiring the Christmas decorations his Mummy has bought, Rupert becomes thoughtful and disappears quietly. When he comes back he is ready to go out and is carrying a basket. "Mummy, may I go and look for pine cones?" he says. "There should be plenty in the woods at this time of year. If I collect some we could make

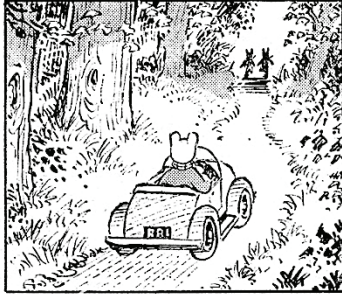
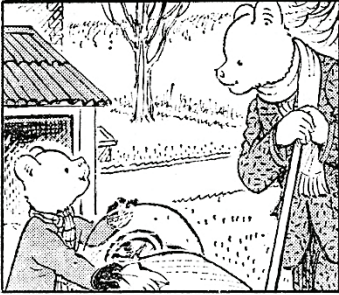


lots of ornaments like the one you bought. And they wouldn't cost anything at all." "Why yes, that sounds a very good idea," replies Mrs. Bear. "Off you go." Rupert decides to use his pedal car for the trip, and within a few moments he is wheeling it from its little shed.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present

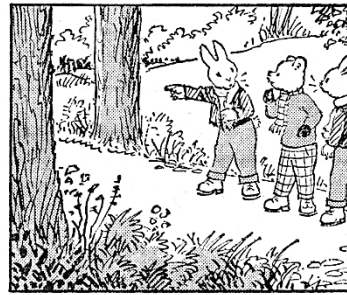
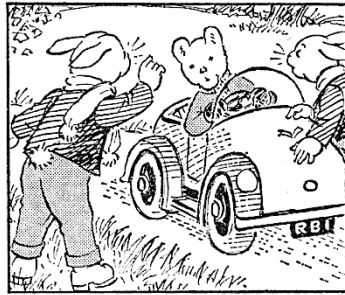
Rupert and Hugo's Present—3



"Hullo, Rupert, off for a spin?" Mr. Bear pauses in his garden work and comes to watch while Rupert polishes his little car. "I must say, you've taken good care of it," Daddy remarks. "I've been thinking, Daddy," says Rupert. "I really need a hooter for my car. A small one that goes 'too-toot!' Shall I ask Santa Claus to bring me one for

Christmas?" "Why not?" chuckles Mr. Bear. "It is something every car should have. Put it on your Christmas list!" Rupert tells Daddy that he is going to look for pine cones, then he sets off, pedaling his car along the byways. Presently he glimpses two figures on the track. "I do believe it's Rex and Reggie Rabbit!" he murmurs. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—4

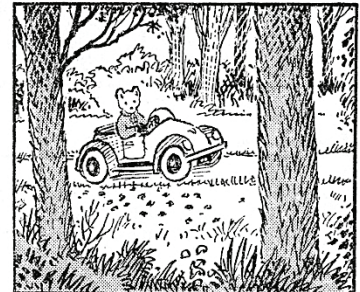
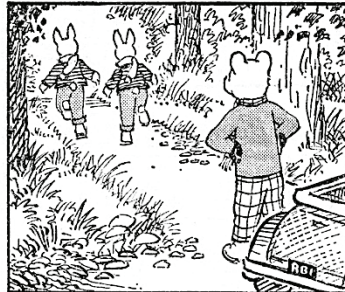


As Rupert's car draws level with the Rabbit twins, they wave him to a halt. "Don't go any farther, Rupert!" warns Reggie. "It's awfully dangerous!" Rupert stares at his chums, wondering why they look so alarmed. "Dangerous? What do you mean?" he asks, scrambling from his seat. With a quivering hand Rex points along the track. "W-we've

just c-come that way," he mumbles. "We saw the marks on the ground and ——" "What sort of marks?" interrupts Rupert, frowning. "They were big footprints," says Reggie. "Huge footprints! They must have been made by an enormous person. We didn't stop to find out—we just ran as hard as we could." ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—5



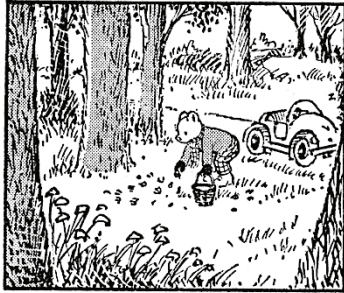
"Don't risk it, Rupert. Those footprints might have been made by an ogre. Come on, let's get away quickly." The two rabbits move on, hoping Rupert will follow, but when he hangs back they break into a run. "Perhaps you made a mistake and the marks you saw weren't footprints at all," Rupert calls out, knowing how quickly the timid pair can take

fright. By then Rex and Reggie have bolted, and with a shrug Rupert climbs into his car. "All this talk about ogres!" he smiles. "It's silly. I'm sure there's nothing to be afraid of." And he pedals his car into the woods until he reaches a grove of pine-trees. "There are lots of cones here," he says. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

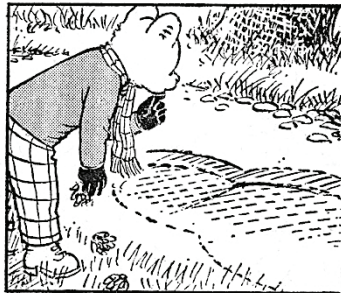
The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—6



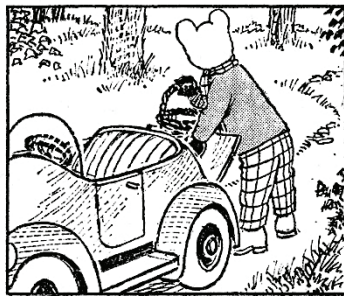
Carrying the basket Rupert leaves his car and makes for a spot where the grass is littered with pine cones. "They're nice ones," he thinks. "Just right for making those ornaments." He wanders about gathering the largest cones he can find, and before long his basket is well filled. "That should be enough," he says, as he turns back. "I'll



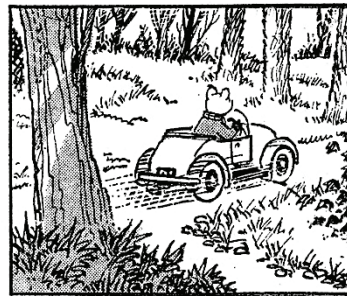
just have this extra big one —" Rupert catches his breath and stops sharply, for he has noticed what looks like a strangely shaped rut in the ground. Then with a thrill of alarm Rupert realises that he is looking at an enormous footprint. "The rabbits weren't making a mistake!" he whispers.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—7



After the shock of seeing the massive footprint Rupert is fearful of being alone in the silent woods. "Oh dear, somebody really huge must have come this way," he breathes. He stands rooted to the spot, scanning the gloomy surroundings. "I-I don't like being here," he murmurs. At last he finds enough courage to creep back to his car, still

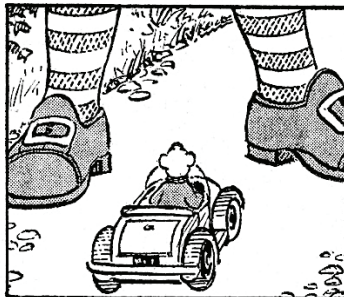


looking over his shoulder. "I'll get away as quickly as I can," he says, putting the basket of cones in the boot of the car. With one more glance back to make sure he is not being followed, Rupert jumps into the driving-seat and begins to pedal his fastest. "I won't stop until I'm out of the woods," he gasps.

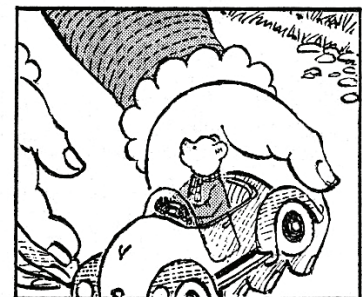
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—8



Rupert's car fairly speeds along, jolting and swerving on the rough track. Crouched over the steering-wheel the little bear is so anxious to escape from the woods that he scarcely sees what is ahead. Then, as the car swings round a bend, he finds two gigantic legs astride the path. "Ooo-oo! It's a giant!" With a cry of alarm Rupert



brings his car to a standstill, gazing up at a vast figure in front of him. "Ho-hum! What have we here?" A voice booms out from the tree-tops and two great hands come down clapping the car with Rupert still in his seat. "P-please don't tip me out!" implores Rupert as he is lifted high off the ground.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—9



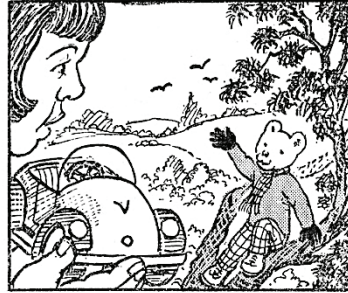
The towering giant stands head and shoulders above the trees. "A tiny bear! A live bear!" he cries, taking Rupert from the car and placing him in the palm of one hand. "I thought you were part of this strange toy." "No I-I'm a *real* bear," says Rupert shakily. In spite of his size, the giant is no more than a boy. "You need have no fear," he

says. "I will not harm you." He places Rupert on a branch and then points to Nutwood in the distance. "I have been here many times," he says. "I enjoy watching all that goes on in yonder village. I dare not go nearer lest I scare the folk who live there, so I hide myself among the trees."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—10



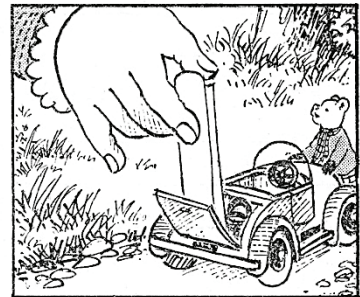
The youthful giant proves to be a gentle and friendly lad. "My name is Hugo," says the boy. "I live with my uncle. His house is many leagues from here." While talking to Rupert he peers closely at the little bear's pedal car. "This toy is wonderfully well made" he says. "It was a present from Santa Claus one Christmas," explains Rupert, and the boy giant gazes at him in surprise.

"Santa Claus?" he echoes. "I have never heard of him before." "You haven't?" cries Rupert. "I thought *everyone* knew about Santa. He brings lots of lovely presents at Christmas-time. We all send him letters of the things we would like, and then we hang up stockings so that he can put our presents in them."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—11



Rupert tells the eager young giant all about the fun of Christmas. "What a happy time it must be!" gasps Hugo. "We have no such jollity at my uncle's house. Tell me, would Santa Claus bring *me* a present too?" "I'm sure he would," smiles Rupert, "if you sent him a message to say what you would like." And while Rupert carefully climbs down

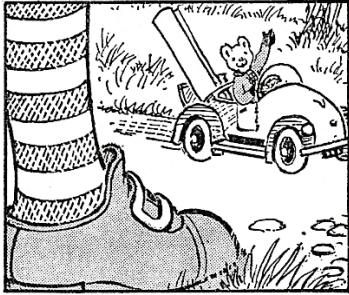
the tree, Hugo takes out a great note-pad and pencil and begins to write. When he has finished the boy giant places Rupert's car on the ground and offers him the rolled-up message. "Would you see that Santa gets it?" he asks. "Right-ho, you can put it in the boot of my car," replies Rupert.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

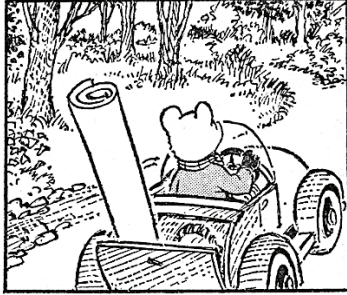
The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—12



When Rupert is in his driving-seat he waves goodbye to the boy giant. "Be sure to hang up your stocking!" he calls out. "Aye, indeed I will," booms Hugo. "And my uncle shall hear all that I have learned from you. We too should make merry at Christmas!" Soon Rupert is pedalling his car at a steady pace. "I'll post Hugo's message this

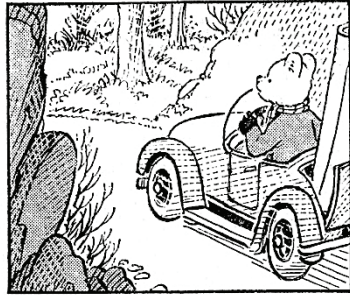


afternoon," he thinks. "But it's too big to send as a letter. I'll have to make a parcel of it!" He slows down on approaching a point where the track divides. "Which way shall I go?" he muses. "The one on the left would take me through a deep part of the woods, but it's a quicker way home."

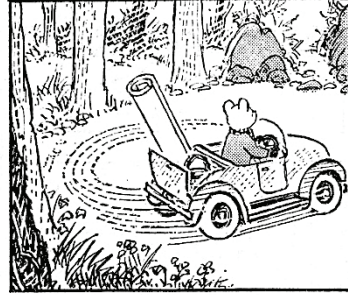
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—13



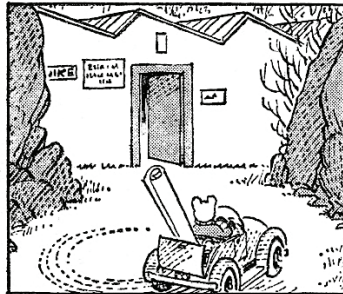
Rupert swings his pedal car on to the track which leads deeper into the woods. "I'll go this way," he decides. "It will save a long journey home." Presently he comes to a clearing edged with large boulders. "I've been here before," he murmurs. "Surely this was where Edward and I found that strange building. It was a sort of warehouse



for Santa's presents. It suddenly appeared when we turned round three times, left to right." Thinking back Rupert recalls the little clerk in charge of the place. "I could ask *him* to give Hugo's message to Santa," he says. "I wonder if the secret will work again." And he starts to drive his car round in a tight circle

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—14



Rupert does not stop his car until he has turned round three times. "That's all Edward and I had to do," he says. "As soon as we'd finished the warehouse appeared . . . oh, there it is!" Suddenly, in a gap between the rocks, the strange building takes form exactly where it had stood before. "It—it must have been there all the



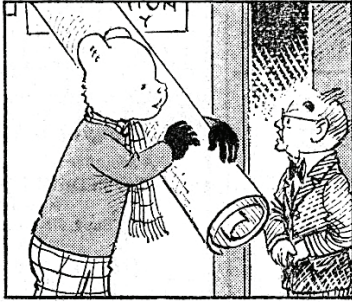
time!" gasps Rupert. "But it can't be seen without knowing which way to turn!" Springing from his car, Rupert carries Hugo's enormous message towards the building. "I know it's all very private," he thinks. "Still, the door is open. Perhaps if I peep in I shall find the clerk."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—15



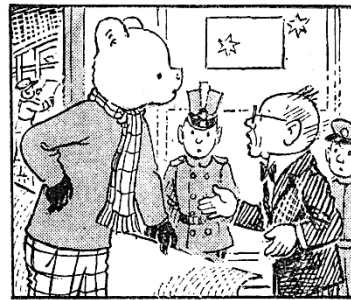
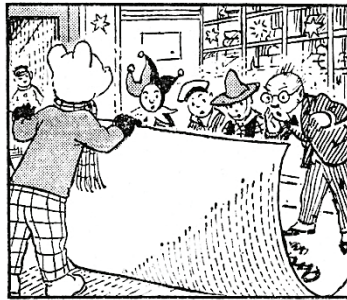
Even before Rupert can cross the threshold a figure bars his way. It is the very clerk Rupert had hoped to find. "You can't come in," snaps the tiny man. "You weren't invited. Didn't you see the notice outside?" "Yes" replies Rupert. "But I've been here before you see. There is something important to tell you. This big piece of paper is a

message to Santa Claus. Would you see that he gets it as soon as possible?" "Looks more like a roll of wallpaper," grunts the clerk. "Ah well, give it here and come in." He puts the rolled-up message on his shoulder and Rupert follows him into a long room lined with shelves of Christmas gifts.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—16

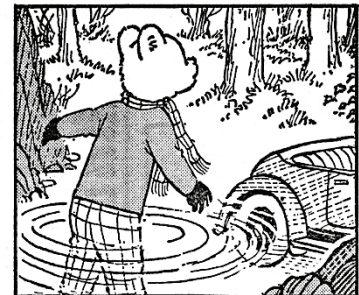


Reaching the far end of the room the little clerk halts. "We can't refuse to take a message to Santa Claus," he says. "Who's it from?" "A boy giant I made friends with" says Rupert. "H'm!" The little man seems rather displeased. "Then we'd better see what it's all about." Whilst Rupert unrolls the sheet of paper some of the

helpers gather round to read the message with the clerk. Slowly their faces change to looks of dismay. "Absolutely impossible!" cries the clerk. "Is it something Hugo has written?" asks Rupert. "May I see the message?" "Certainly not!" sniffs the little man. "Letters to Santa are strictly private."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—17



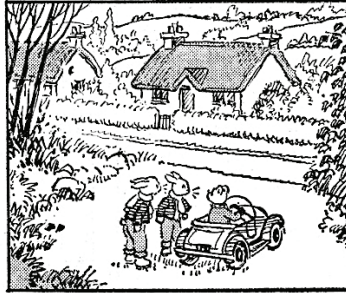
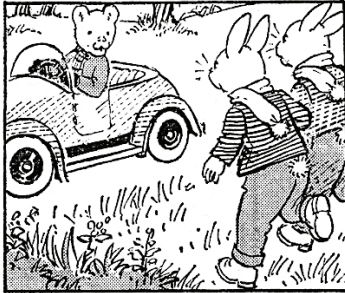
The little clerk is now thoroughly upset and loses no time in seeing Rupert to the door. "I'm sure I don't know what Santa Claus will say," he sighs. "It's people like you who make his work so hard." "What have I done?" says Rupert. "If only you would tell me why you're so cross." But the door is slammed and the little bear is left alone

and unhappy. "Oh dear, it's all so puzzling," he says. Before returning to his car he remembers what he must do to make the building vanish. "I have to turn round three times again," he says. "But from right to left, not left to right." And he spins swiftly on tip-toe.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—18



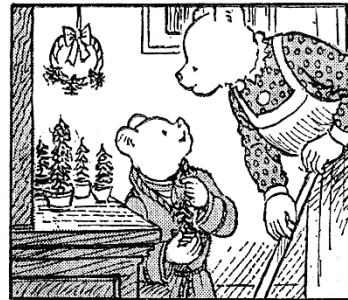
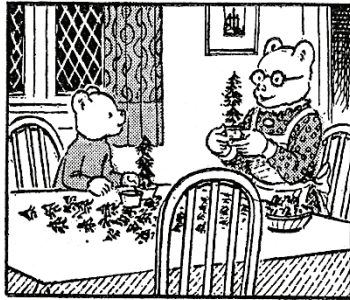
Sure enough, as soon as Rupert has spun round, the strange warehouse disappears without a trace. Then, jumping into his car, Rupert pedals through the woods until the trees give way to open ground. Rex and Reggie Rabbit are about and, catching sight of Rupert, they run to meet him. "We thought you'd been caught by that ogre!"

cries Rex. "Ha, ha! It wasn't an ogre at all," laughs Rupert. "I *did* see a huge footprint, but it had been made by a boy giant. I met him, too, and he was very kind." The twins are eager to hear every scrap of Rupert's adventure. "My, you *have* had a thrilling time!" says Reggie.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—19

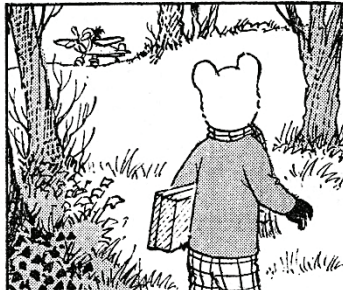


When Rupert goes indoors Mummy tells him he has done well to collect so many pine cones. "You'll have a busy afternoon," she smiles. "I can spare an hour or so to help you." Mrs. Bear has lots of ideas for making things with the pine cones and before long some pretty Christmas decorations are taking shape. While they work together Rupert

describes his meeting with Hugo. "He was such a jolly lad," says the little bear. "I wish we could play together sometimes, but he's far too tall!" Next morning he looks at all the pine-cone decorations in the room. "We made more than we need, Mummy," he says. "I'll take some to Bill Badger."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—20



Putting some of the pine-cone ornaments into a box, Rupert sets out with his surprise gift for Bill Badger. "I'm sure he will be pleased with them," thinks the little bear. "They're just right for Christmas decorations." On his way he hears a whirring sound in the sky, but takes little notice until he sees an airplane landing on a

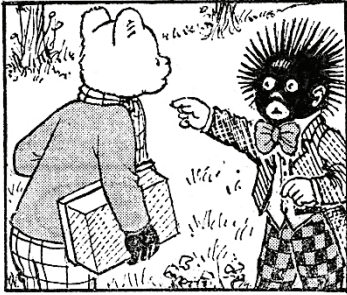
stretch of grass. "That's a very small one," he murmurs. "A grown-up person couldn't fly in it. Ah, perhaps it belongs to one of Santa's helpers!" He stays to watch and who should jump from the pilot's seat but his good friend the Golliwog. "Hey, Rupert!" shouts Golly. "I've something to say to you!"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

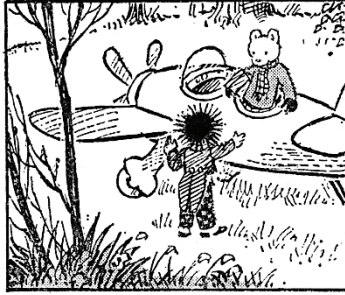
The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—21



Golly looks annoyed. "What do you mean by causing all this bother?" he demands. "You've put poor Santa in a dreadful pickle!" "Have I?" says Rupert. "Why, what's happened?" "It's that enormous letter you delivered to our Nutwood warehouse," grumbles Golly. "Don't you know what it's all about?" "No, the clerk wouldn't let me read it," replies Rupert. "It

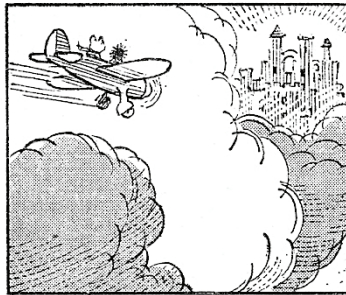


was just a message from a boy giant—" "That's what I mean!" cries the golliwog. "You've been very thoughtless. You'd better come and see what a state we're in!" He hustles Rupert to the airplane and waits impatiently whilst the little bear squeezes into the rear cockpit. "Hurry up!" snaps Golly.

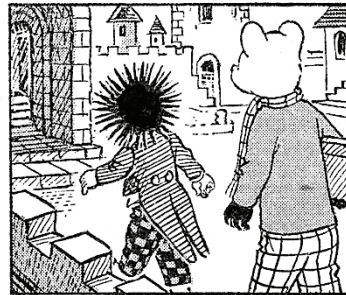
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—22



Golly starts his airplane and the machine takes off, zooming up into the clouds. "I wonder why Hugo's message made him so cross," thinks Rupert, huddled in the tiny cockpit. "There seemed nothing wrong in giving it to the clerk. After all, it was for Santa." The little airplane speeds on until at length Rupert glimpses a turreted castle

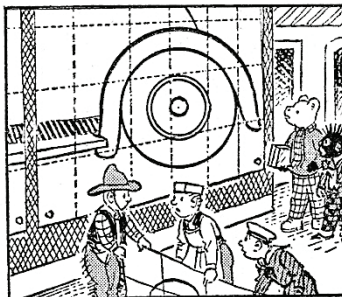


glowing with a golden hue in the wintry sunlight. "That's where Santa lives," he tells himself. "We're nearly there." As soon as the airplane has touched down on a terrace the two travellers climb out, and Golly leads Rupert to one of the towers, saying, "I'll take you to the main workroom."

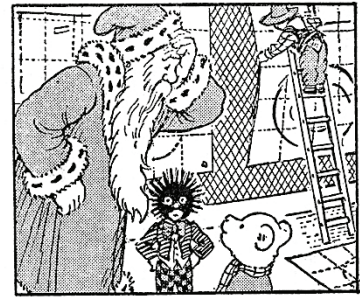
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—23



Rupert goes with Golly into a large room where Santa's helpers are hard at work. One of the first things Rupert notices is a great diagram covering most of a wall. "That is what all the trouble is about," says Golly. Just then Santa Claus himself strides into the room. "Aha, so you've come," he says, on seeing Rupert. "You're the one who's



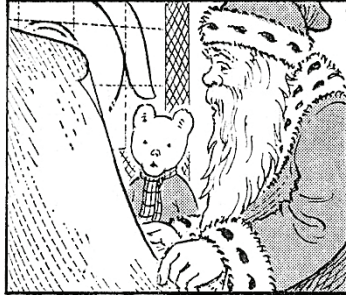
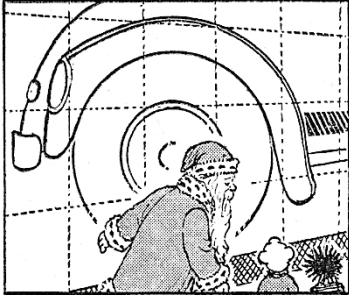
posed us such a problem. If only you'd stopped to think before delivering that message. Surely you know I never give presents to giants!" "B—but I didn't, Santa," cries Rupert. "Hugo's only a young giant, and I thought it would be nice if you could take him a little gift for Christmas."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—24

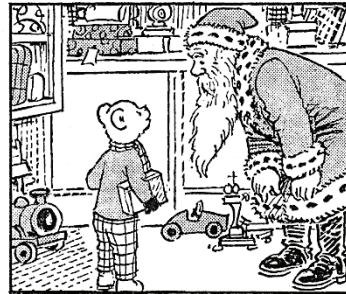
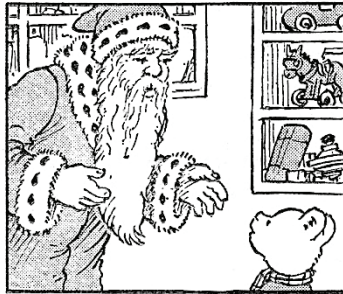


"A LITTLE gift! Don't you know what Hugo has asked for?" Santa speaks huskily as he guides Rupert to the diagram on the wall. "It's this—a car like yours! Can't you imagine how big it must be for Hugo to ride in it? We don't even know how tall he is!" "Well, he was about the height of the trees—" begins Rupert worriedly, and

the old gentleman groans in despair. "Then we'll have to make it larger still!" he says. "This plan was only guesswork!" He picks up Hugo's letter. "Listen to this," he mutters. "It says: 'Dear Santa Claus, please will you bring me a car exactly like Rupert's.' What could be plainer than that?"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—25



Santa paces up and down in front of Rupert. "A pedal-car for a boy giant!" he mutters. "It will have to be simply enormous to fit him. Besides, how on earth could I get it on my sleigh? That's why I never, never give presents to giant families—they would expect such big things!" Rupert shakes his head unhappily. "Oh, dear, yes," he

says. "It was my mistake. I shouldn't have told Hugo to write to you, Santa. I'm very sorry." He falls silent, wondering how to make amends. "Supposing I were to go to Hugo's home and tell him that he won't get a present after all?" he suggests suddenly.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—26



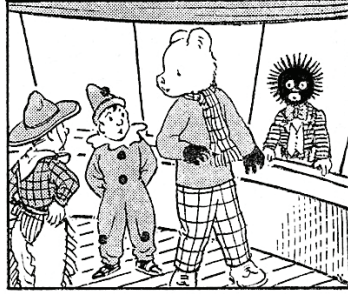
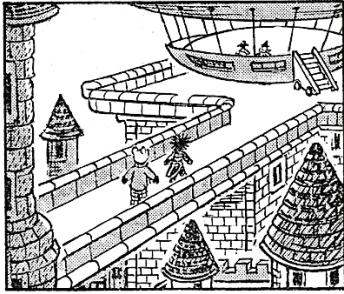
"H'm, it would solve my problem." Santa strokes his beard and ponders on what Rupert has said. "My helpers could take you to Hugo's home by airship, if you're not afraid of visiting him." "No one need be scared of Hugo," replies Rupert, glad to see that Santa is now more cheerful. "He wouldn't harm a fly! And please, Santa,"

he adds, holding out the box of home-made ornaments, "I'd like to give you this present to make up for my mistake." In surprise Santa opens the box, and when he finds it contains pine-cone decorations, he smiles at Rupert. "How delightful! They are just the things for brightening my Christmas table."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—27



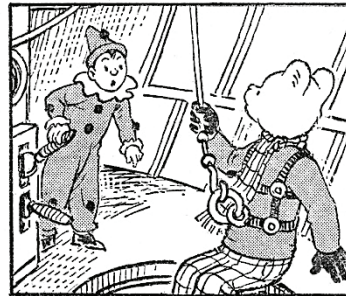
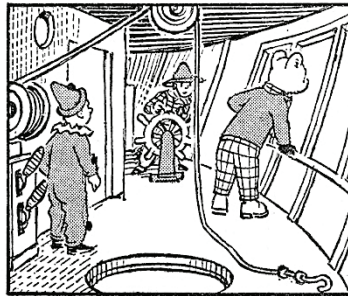
Santa sends for Golly and tells him what has been arranged. Then Rupert is escorted along a high gangway to where the airship lies at its moorings. "I don't know the way to Hugo's home," he says to the goliwog. "Do you?" "No, we'll leave it to our pilot," replies the little person briskly. "He will find the place on his maps." While the two are boarding the craft Rupert explains

to some of the helpers where he wishes to go, and the reason why. "Isn't that rather dangerous?" gasps the clown. "You wouldn't catch me facing a disappointed giant!" "Gee, nor me," says the cowboy. "They sure can be bad-tempered if they're upset. Waal, we'll take you there, I'll bear, but at your own risk."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—28

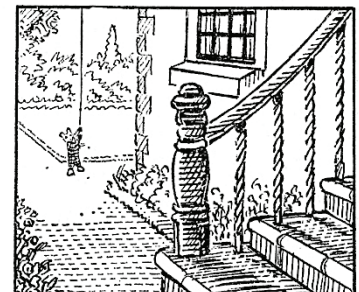
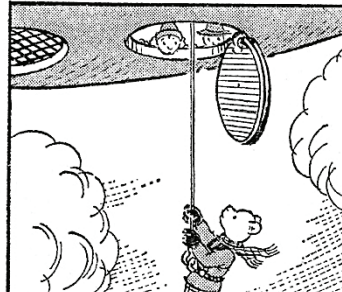


The cowboy takes his place at the helm, gives a few orders, and within moments the airship is moving away from Santa's castle. The journey goes smoothly, but Rupert now has anxious thoughts about his visit to the boy giant. "I hope Hugo won't be cross with me when I tell him he won't get a Christmas present after all," he thinks, as he gazes out of the window. "He is sure

to be awfully disappointed." At length the cowboy pilot announces that they are nearing Hugo's home, and Rupert is told to put on a harness. "Fasten it to the hook of this crane-rope," says the clown. "We're going to lower you to the ground." Rupert does as he is told, trying hard not to show that he is very uneasy.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—29



Rupert clings tightly to the rope while he is lowered through the open flap. When he is a few feet below the airship the helpers peer through the opening to wish him good luck. "We'll wait here for you," calls out the cowboy. "And if that boy giant loses his temper just get away as quickly as you can." "Yes, we'll be ready to haul you

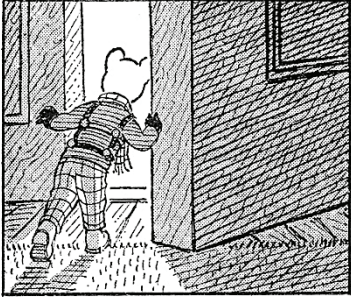
up as soon as you tug on the rope," says the clown. Rupert promises to be careful and waits tensely until he reaches the ground. He lands on a patch outside a gigantic house. "So this is where Hugo lives," he breathes. "Everything is so big! It's going to be hard just getting up those great steps!"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

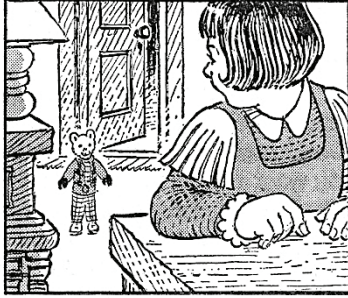
The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—30



Rupert is breathless by the time he has struggled up the massive steps. At the top he finds the front door ajar. "I feel so tiny," he pants. "I wonder if I shall lose my way in this great place." There is no sound from within, and Rupert timidly makes his way along the hall, not knowing what to expect. "Whatever shall I do if I meet

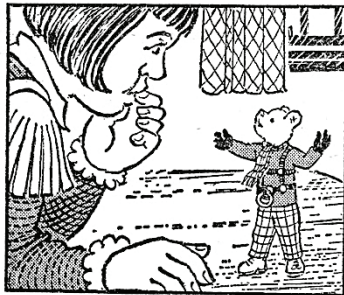


Hugo's uncle?" he whispers. "He will be even bigger than the boy!" Still going stealthily, he arrives at a room leading off the hall. The door is wide open and beyond, seated at a table, is the boy giant himself. "Hallo, Hugo!" calls out Rupert. "I-I've come to see you."

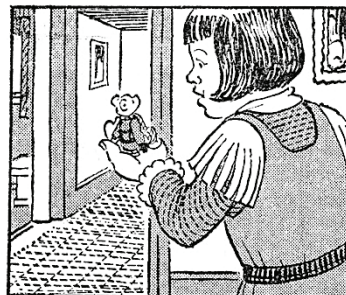
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—31



Hugo is overjoyed at Rupert's surprise visit. "Welcome, little friend!" he cries. "What brings you here?" Plucking Rupert off the floor, Hugo places him on the table. "Ooo, now I can't get away if he becomes angry," thinks the little bear. He does his best to hide his fears and begins to explain how he delivered Hugo's message and why it gave Santa Claus so much worry. "He simply

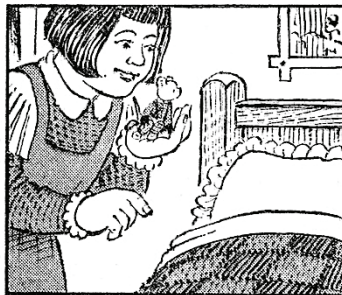


couldn't bring you a pedal-car like mine," says Rupert. "You'd need an enormous one to fit you. It was my fault, I shouldn't have told you to write to him." Hugo hears Rupert's story through, then he puts the little bear in the palm of his hand and, without a word, carries him from the room.

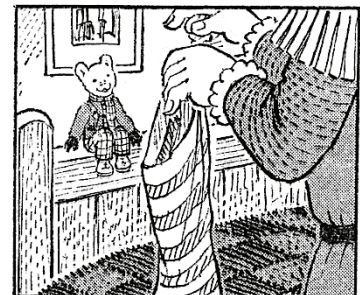
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—32



Rupert waits for the boy giant to speak. "H-have I made him angry?" he wonders. Still in silence Hugo takes Rupert to another room where there is a giant-sized bed. Then he gives a hearty chuckle, like the rumble of thunder. "You need not blame yourself," he says. "I should have made my message clearer. I wanted a car like yours—exactly the same size." "But you



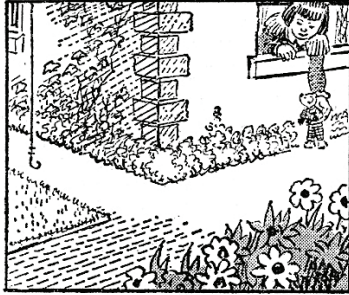
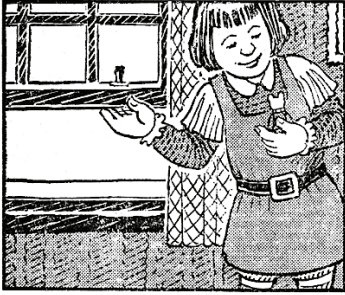
couldn't ride in it!" cries Rupert. "It would be far too small for you." Hugo leaves Rupert perched on the bedrail while he fetches an enormous stocking. "You told me to hang this up on Christmas Eve," he says. "So I asked Santa for a present small enough to go into my stocking—a car like yours!"

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—33



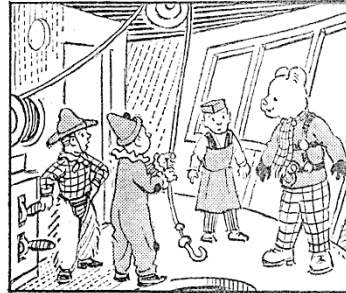
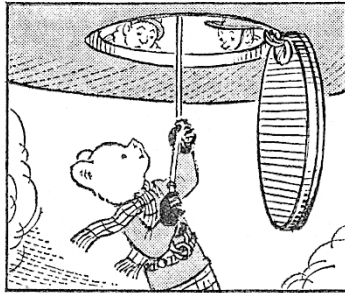
"So that's it! You wanted a little car to play with!" Rupert now understands clearly. "Santa thought you expected one big enough to drive about in!" "No, my only wish is for a model car—a toy," replies Hugo. "I can have such fun with it. Is it too much to ask of the kind old gentleman?" "Of course not," says Rupert. "He could easily bring you a car the same size

as mine." Hugo carries Rupert across the room and opens a window. "Thank you for coming," he says, leaning out and carefully putting Rupert on the path. "So there is still hope that Santa will put the gift in my stocking." "Yes, we all hope our wishes will come true at Christmas," smiles Rupert. "I'll tell the helpers to explain to Santa."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—34

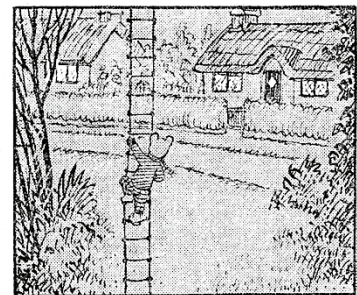
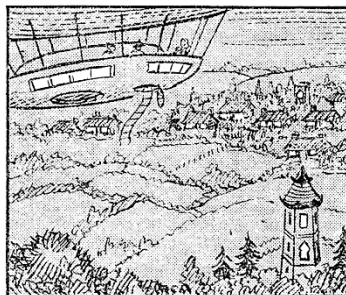


Wishing Hugo a Merry Christmas, Rupert returns to where the rope still dangles from the waiting airship. Fixing his harness to the hook, he gives the rope a tug. At once the crane goes into action, hauling up Rupert on the end of the rope. Just as he reaches the flap anxious faces appear in the opening. "What happened?" asks the clown. "Was that boy giant furious?" "No,

we are still good friends," smiles Rupert. When he is safely aboard the airship he thrills the helpers with his story. "Everything's fine," he says. "Hugo doesn't want a car to ride in—just a model to play with, the same size as mine." "Say, that's easy enough!" cries the cowboy. "We always keep your kind of car in stock."

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—35

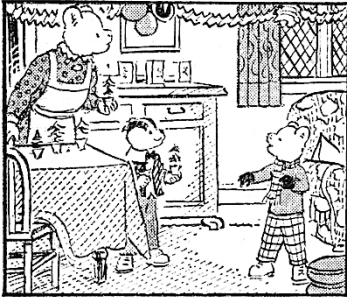


Now that the mistake over Hugo's present has been cleared up, everyone aboard the airship is in happy mood. The craft is turned round for the journey back, this time in the direction of Nutwood. They arrive at twilight and Rupert, standing on the outer deck sees the lights of the village. "I shall soon be home," he thinks contentedly. Mean-

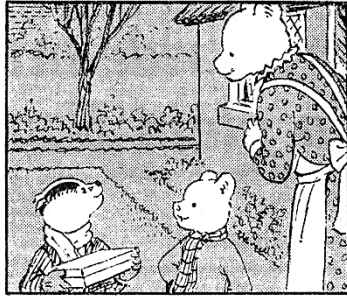
while the helpers are preparing for Rupert to leave the airship. "There's no need to use the crane," he is told. Instead a rope ladder is thrown out and, after bidding the helpers goodbye, Rupert clammers down to the ground. "Why, there's our own cottage!" he exclaims. "How clever of them to stop above it." ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present

Rupert and Hugo's Present—36



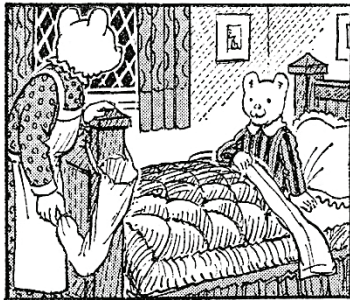
"Coo-ee. Mummy!" calls out Rupert. "I'm home!" He bursts into the living-room to discover Bill Badger admiring the pinecone decorations which Mrs. Bear has spread on the table. "Hallo, Rupert!" cries Bill. "Your Mummy says I must have missed you on the way here. I was just looking at all the things you've made. They're topping!" "I had some for you, Bill," says



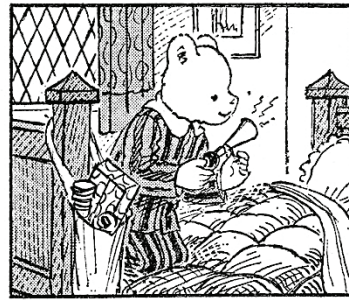
Rupert, "but I gave them to Santa Claus. Never mind, we still have lots, so there's enough for you." Mrs. Bear agrees, and puts some of the cone ornaments into a box. "Thank you very much," says Bill, when he is ready to leave. "They'll look grand on our table at Christmas." "That's just what Santa said!" laughs Rupert.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Rupert and Hugo's Present—37



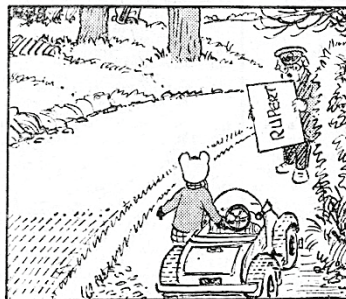
During the days that follow Rupert talks endlessly of the boy giant. "What a chatterbox you are!" smiles Mummy. "The only time you were quiet was when you wrote to Santa about your presents!" At last it is Christmas Eve, and that night Rupert gazes at the stocking on the bedpost. "It's so tiny after seeing Hugo's," he says. "His



stocking was as big as—" "Yes, you've told me all that before," laughs Mrs. Bear. "Now off to sleep, and perhaps Santa will call later tonight." On Christmas morning Rupert finds his stocking bulging with gifts and the first parcel he unwraps contains a hooter for his car. "Hoorah!" he shouts. "It's a grand one!" ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Rupert Annual is now on sale. A great bargain at 80p. And the Rupert record is now available from all record shops. Price 60p.

Rupert and Hugo's Present—38



When Daddy has fitted the new hooter, Rupert takes his car into the lane. He is hailed by the postman, who hands him an enormous card. "I found this propped against one of the country pillar-boxes, Master Rupert," he says. "There was no stamp on it and it was too big for the slot, but I thought you should have it." With a gasp Rupert rushes back and shows the



card to Mummy and Daddy. "It's from Hugo," he cries, "wishing us a Merry Christmas! And he's written something else . . . to tell us that Santa *did* bring the car he asked for! Isn't that splendid!"

THE END

(Another Adventure on Monday)
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

When Animals Work

When Animals Work.

No. 10.—The Bear is a Gamekeeper.



Mr. Brown is a keeper; wherever he goes
He's death to all vermin like weasels and crows.
In his velveteen coat and his stout corduroys,
He just pops them off with a terrible noise.
He's down on all poachers. He just hates their name,
But they often end up with the best of the game.

(All Rights Reserved.)

The next drawing in this series will appear in Wednesday's "Daily Express."

When Animals Work

When Animals Work.

No. 20.—The Owl as a Night Watchman.



Though the snow's on the ground and the moon in the sky,
Mr. Blink, the night watchman, keeps on passing by.
In the days of our fathers he went through the town
Till the sun was right up and the moon was right down.
His call was as clear as the tone of a bell—
"It is two o' the clock! A cold morning! All's well."

[All Rights Reserved.]

The next drawing in this series will appear in Friday's "Daily Express."



Follow **RUPERT** *in the*
Nutwood Newsletter



. . AND SO TO BED.



Original Rupert text and images ©Express Newspapers.
All Rights Reserved.
This Followers' publication is a non-profit making periodical, compiled, published and
©The Followers of Rupert, 2023. Web page – www.rupertbear.co.uk

Permission to reproduce any part of the publication must be obtained from:
The Secretary, John Beck, 29 Mill Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2RU
(Tel. 07367 351916) email – beck3861@gmail.com

