Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

CONCERNING POSTMORTEMS

The "social" bridge player and the serious student of the game are miles apart, irrespective of whatever difference there may be in pure skill. The social player hates postmortems; the student dotes on them.

Everyone is, of course, entitled to his tastes, but the players who hate postmortems unquestionably miss much of the deeper interest of bridge. Here, for example, is a hand from a duplicate match that later caused a running argument over one point. Would three notrump be made, North-South, against "good" (not necessarily expert) defense?

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding is not important, simply suppose that South reaches three notrump with both opponents passing throughout.

Suppose further that West leads a spade — no other lead is better for the defense. South wins in the closed hand and tries the club finesse. East wins and returns a spade, won by the ace. Declarer cashes the ace of clubs, then leads a heart.

Now, the question of whether three notrump "would be" made depends entirely on East. If that defender plays a low heart, South is on the home stretch, but an alert East puts up the heart king. When it holds, he shifts to a low diamond, and this shift is the "fixer" against declarer. If he plays the ace of diamonds, he must lose two diamond tricks when he knocks out the heart ace; and if South puts in the diamond jack, West wins and leads another diamond which East ducks.

Thus, the answer is that South cannot make three notrump against good defense — but the word "good" is subject to much qualification, and it is doubtful that many pairs would find precisely the right defense on the East-West cards. Observe that the first diamond lead by the defense must go through South's A-J — not up to that combination.

GET YOUR FREE DIGEST of the Culbertson Point-Count Method. Simply send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the J. C. Winston Co., 1010 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

By Thorton W. Burgess

THE ONLOOKERS

Too much work, or too much play.
Never makes a happy day.
—Old Mother Nature.

The pond of Paddy the Beaver, deep in the Green Forest, was a busy scene. Paddy and Mrs. Paddy were working hard. Time was getting short. Any day now Jack Frost might start freezing over the pond, and putting an end to work. There was still much to be done before he would do this.

All the best food trees near the water had been cut. Now they were in the food pile out in the pond only a little way from the house that was also in the water. But the food pile was not yet big enough to suit those two beavers. There might be enough to last them all winter. On the other hand, there might not be enough. The busy workers meant to make sure. So now they were digging a canal that would take the water from the pond near enough to a group of young aspen trees for the beavers to feel safe in cutting them.

Longlegs the Great Blue Heron spent much time at the edge of the water.

Every day Lightfoot the Deer came to the pond for a drink. Longlegs the Great Blue Heron spent much time at the edge of the water. Now and then Buster Bear came there for a drink or a bath. Prickly Porky the Porcupine came often. Croaker the Raven, Blacky the Crow, Sammy Jay, and others of the feathered folk were almost daily visitors. Old Man Coyote managed to include their pond in his daily or nightly hunt. Yowler the Bobcat spent much time every night watching those busy workers. Both Old Man Coyote and Yowler dreamed of a beaver dinner as they watched.

Now some of those looking on were doing so just out of idle curiosity. Some folks just love to see other folks work. That is especially true of folks who do little or no work themselves.

"What a life," snorted Lightfoot the Deer. "What a life! Those folks do nothing but work all the time. What fun can they get out of living? I'm glad Im not a beaver." Lightfoot quite forgot that those busy workers would have all winter long with no special work to do. And that in early summer when there was plenty of other kinds of food Paddy and Mrs. Paddy work only when necessary, or when they felt like it.

Old Man Coyote was careful not to show himself. When he went near where the busy workers were digging he was careful always to keep the wind in his face so that it would bring him the scent of the beavers, but never take his scent to them. Yowler the Bobcat was equally careful in this manner. Neither wanted Paddy and Mrs. Paddy even to suspect that they were being watched. Each hoped that sooner or later one of those beavers would feel so sure that no danger was near that it would be safe to go some distance from the water.

Meanwhile, Paddy and Mrs. Paddy worked both by day and by night. They dug, and dug, and dug, piling the mud on one bank as the canal grew longer and longer. All the time they went right on with their work just as if there were no onlookers. But, all the time they were keeping their ears opened, and their noses constantly testing every little breeze that came along, so that most of the time they knew when they were being watched and by whom. They were taking no chances.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN —

I will not be responsible for any bills contracted in my name unless personally authorized by me.

ROBERT H. SMITH
Hunter River

DAILY CROSSWORD

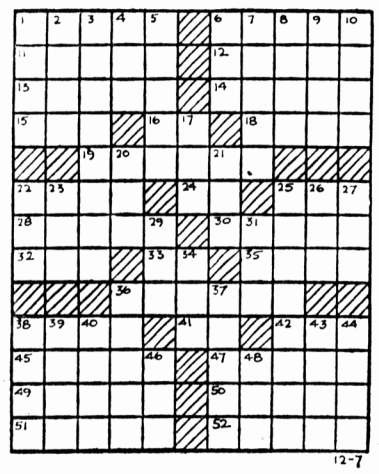
ACROSS

1. Distal segment of the forelimb (anat.)
6. Small drum
11. Rugged mountain crest
12. Kind of tree (It.)
13. Long-tailed parrot
14. Languishes
15. Question
16. Water god (Babyl.)
18. English county
19. Insects in immature form
22. Man's name
24. Erbium (sym.)
25. A hill (So. Afr.)
28. Silent
30. Musical instrument
32. Solemn wonder
33. River (Lat.)
35. Veinlike deposit
36. Kind of loose overcoat
38. Lave
41. Hawaiian bird
42. Canine
45. Out of bed
47. Living
49. Fish net
50. Capital (Fr. West Afr.)
51. Peeled
52. Fish

DOWN

1. Mother
2. Macaws
3. Ornamental neck chain
4. The eye: in symbolism
5. Conduit
6. Apex
7. Similar
8. Any twining stem
9. Baking chamber
10. Pause
17. Hail!
20. Keel-billed cuckoo
21. Portion of a curved line
22. Luzon native
23. Mandate
25. River (Alaska)
26. Not young
27. Who wrote "The Gold Bug?"
29. Chinese pagoda
31. Guido's highest note
34. Past
36. River (Ger.)
37. Burdens
38. Stinging insect
39. On the ocean
40. Mix
43. Elliptical
44. Girl's nickname
46. Color
48. Escape

Yesterday's Answer



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

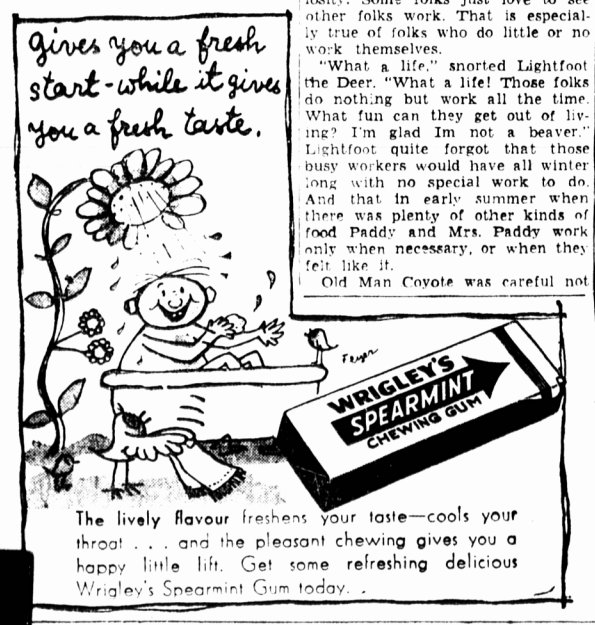
A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophies, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

L X F J O Z B G U , X F G J J G ! X O Z F G J R
O Q J B J Q J U P Z V J ' J R — U O X L P .

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AND THOSE HIGH SONGS OF THINE THAT . . . FELL MORE SOFT THAN DEW OR SNOW BY NIGHT—SWINBURNE.



BLUE PETER STEAMSHIPS LTD.

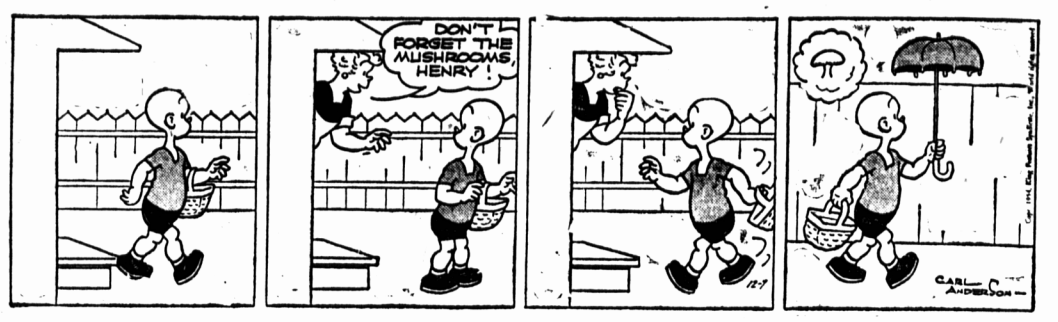
M.V. "BLUE PRINCE"

Freight will be accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday, December 9th, for next sailing M/V Blue Prince, to St. John's, Newfoundland. For space reservation and rates apply:—

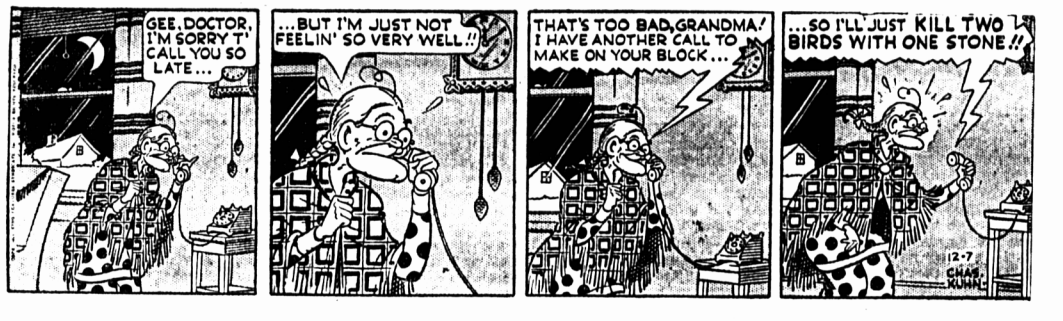
NEWFOUNDLAND SHIPPING SERVICE,
P. O. Box 65 **Dial 8737**

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer — By Robert L. May

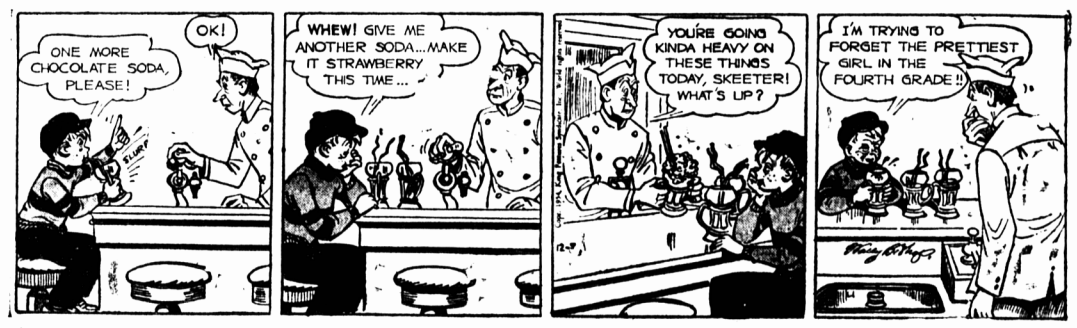
Henry — By Carl Anderson



Grandma — by Charles Kuhn

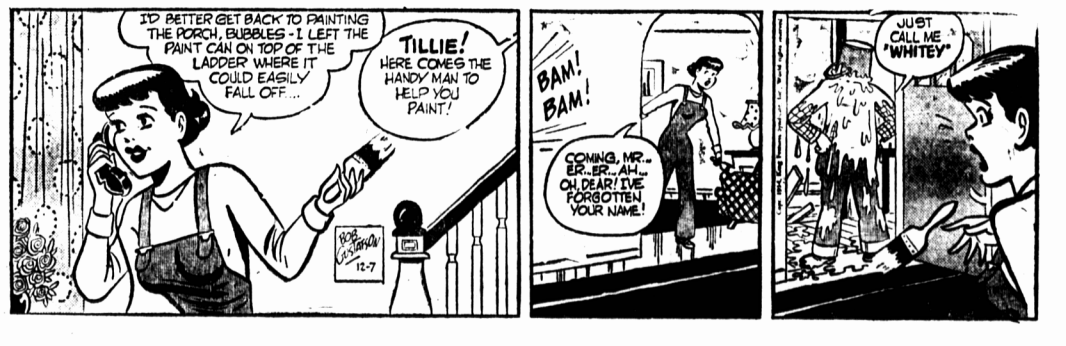


Muggs and Skeeter — By Wally Bishop

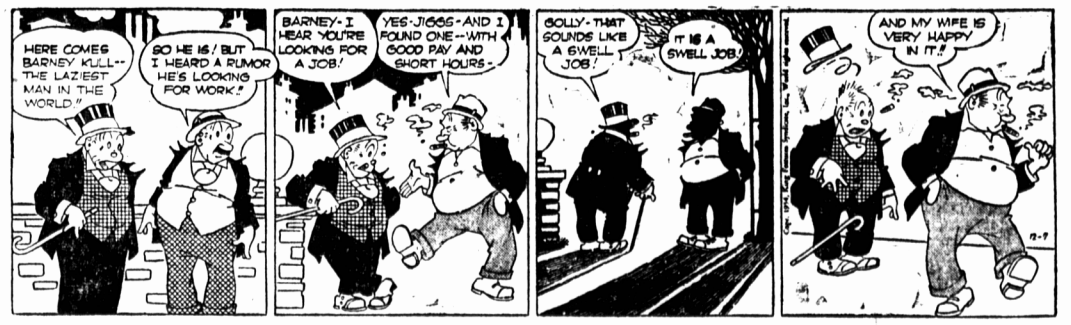


Mickey Mouse — By Walt Disney

Tilly The Toiler — By Bob Gustafson



Bringing Up Father — By George McManus



Li'l Abner — By Al Capp

The Lone Ranger — By Fran Striker

Joe Palooka — By Ham Fisher

Secret Agent X9 — By Mel Graff