Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson

SLAM TRIES HAVE "DEGREES"

In many bridge games it does not matter a great deal whether a player makes a strong or a weak slam-try — the mere fact that he indicates interest is usually enough for his partner to accept the invitation (unless said partner already has overbid tremendously).

In expert games, however, the precise degree of the slam suggestion is the essence of the situation, and a bid either a shade too encouraging or discouraging is apt to have a fatal effect. Consider this case from a prominent New York bridge club:

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
North-South 40 on score.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	2 N T	Pass
3 N T	Pass	6 N T	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The play was of no consequence — South had no chance for the contract.

Analysis of each individual bid does not bring to light any glaring flaw, but when an unsound contract is reached, there is a defect somewhere, though it may be difficult to discover. North-South's part-score, of course, had something to do with the bad outcome. South's jump to two notrump at this score was a far stronger bid, in its implications to partner, than the same bid would be at a love score. The reason for this is obvious: At a 40 score, game is sure to be reached without strong responding; therefore, at the part-score the jump in notrump implies that there are substantial values in reserve.

Thus, North's action in going past game to three notrump was only a proper chance-giving maneuver. (After all, North not only had three aces for slam material, but his hand well over minimum.) Apparently, however, South read this three-notrump call as a strong slam try. If he had applied sounder reasoning, he then would have bid no more than four notrump — and North undoubtedly would have passed.

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.

NOTICE

The public is cordially invited to attend the Official Opening of the Queen Charlotte High School on Monday, December 6th, at 8 o'clock.

An opportunity will be given to inspect the building after the program in the auditorium-gymnasium.

On behalf of the Board of School Trustees,
T. E. MacNUTT, Secretary.

By Thorton W. Burgess

PADDY SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW

Each has his special point of view,
I may not see things as you do.
—Paddy the Beaver.

Peter Rabbit was watching Paddy the Beaver cutting down a tree. Just watching gave Peter a tired feeling. Yes, sir, it gave Peter a tired feeling. How anyone could work as Paddy did, and not be tired was more than Peter could understand. You know Peter does no work at all. It was really a big tree that Paddy was cutting down, and it not only looked like a lot of work, but it was a lot of work.

"Why don't you cut some of the small trees growing around here instead of that big one?" Peter asked.

Paddy pried out a big chip from the trunk of the tree before he replied. "Those small trees are the wrong kind," said he, and drove his great front cutting teeth into the trunk to cut another chip.

"What do you mean they are the wrong kind?" asked Peter.

It was really a big tree that Paddy was cutting down.

"They are not the kind we like for food," replied Paddy.

"I guess you're fussy," said Peter.

"Nothing of the kind," replied Paddy. He sounded a little provoked. "Don't you like sweet clover better than you do plain grass?"

"Yes, of course I do," admitted Peter.

"Then why shouldn't we beavers like one kind of bark better than others?" demanded Paddy.

Peter couldn't think of any reason why they shouldn't. He said so. Paddy pried out another chip. "If we couldn't find a tree of this kind, we would cut some of those other trees," said he. "But this is the kind we like best, and we are willing to work for what we like." He shifted his position and went around to the other side of the tree. There he again started to work, cutting out big chips.

"Which way are you going to make that tree fall?" asked Peter.

"I don't know," mumbled Paddy.

"But I thought you made trees fall just where you wanted them to," said Peter.

"I wish I could," mumbled Paddy. "It would save us a lot of work if we could always do that."

"Which way would you make it fall if you could?" asked Peter.

Paddy stopped long enough to look at Peter. "That's a foolish question," said he.

"What is foolish about it?" demanded Peter a little bit sharply.

"If you were cutting down a tree and could make it fall where you wanted it to, wouldn't you make it fall toward the water?" said Paddy.

Peter felt a little foolish, and he looked it. "Of course, I would," said he.

Paddy resumed work and Peter looked up at the top of the tall tree. "Do you think this tree is going to fall the right way?" he asked.

"I don't know," replied Paddy. "I just hope so."

"So do I," said Peter.

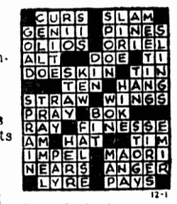
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

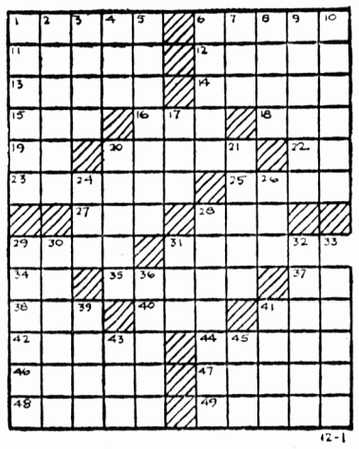
1. Republic off Florida (poss.)
6. Cut
11. Think
12. Test the flavor
13. Male of bees
14. Eject
15. Put on
16. Female deer
18. Man's nickname
19. Behold!
20. Spins
22. Personal pronoun
23. A gaseous hydrocarbon
25. An examination
27. Unit of work
28. Insect
29. Little deer
31. Peril
34. Half an em
35. Meager
37. Music note
38. Moslem title
40. Little hotel
41. Male swan
42. Firm
44. Shun
46. In a moment
47. A star in Orion
48. More secure
49. Sows

DOWN

1. Pamper
2. Pull up by the roots
3. The physiological individual (Biol.)
4. Girl's name
5. Sowing
6. Metal
7. Not strict
8. Vipers
9. Vaporizes
10. Protective head covering
17. Coin (Swed.)
20. Farm buildings
21. Trick performance
24. Chop
26. Ovum
28. Ensigns
29. Banquets
30. Kind of goat
31. Biblical name
32. Eaten away
33. Insurgents
36. Juice of apples
39. Arabic letter
41. Enclosure
43. A frozen dessert
45. Contend



Yesterday's Answer

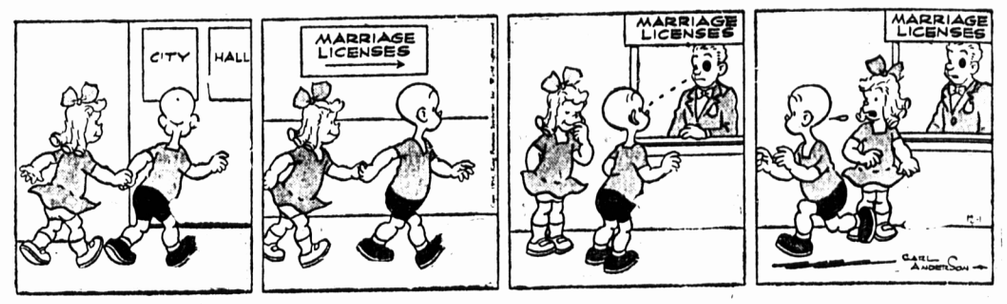
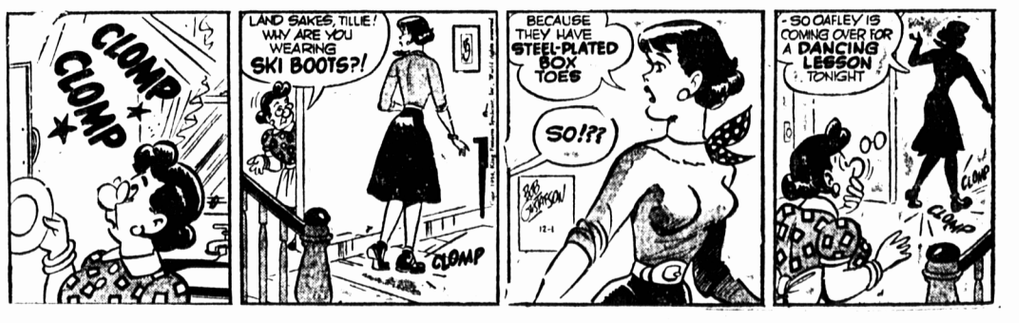


DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:

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

ZU IPF BZLWI STXW JB CX SZW. ILTAIZUQ QLZFB, Z BJKUS CXWFHB —P J C F.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL REFORM EXCEPT A MORAL ONE WILL PROVE UNAVAILING—CARLYLE.