

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson
A COSTLY ERROR

Fixations of any sort are apt to turn badly, and this applies particularly to bridge. However, what South in the hand below described as his own fixation was in fact only a very bad bit of analysis.

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

10643
8
AQ1085
K76

QJ85
7643
K2
AQ9

N
W
E
S

AK72
A102
J96
554

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 3 Pass
3NT Pass 4 Pass
Pass Pass

In view of North's two-notrump response to the opening spade bid South's leap to the slam was logical enough, and indeed conservative. Of course it is quite true that a diamond lead by West would have struck a mortal blow to the slam, but this was not a flaw in the contract itself. For one thing, the diamond king might well have been on-side, and for another, West did not lead a diamond—he was unlucky enough to select a heart.

After winning the first trick and drawing trumps, South's next play was certainly marked, but he could not see it! He was sure the club ace was over the king because (according to his later statement) "West would have laid down the ace if he had held it." So South ignored the club situation to finesse for the king of diamonds. When East smothered the diamond queen, the contract was as good as lost, no matter what East returned. There was no place to put South's losing club.

It goes without saying that, whatever South's unfounded notion was concerning the position of the club ace, he should have tried to establish the club king for a discard before touching the diamond suit. If the club ace was wrong, no harm would be done, if it was right, the diamond finesse would become highly superfluous.

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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess
BIG WINGS
Tis what you understand that counts
There's little else to much amounts.
—Old Mother Nature.

High in the blue, blue sky Redtail the Hawk was sailing in circles. Only now and then did he flap his big wings. He was riding the air currents. As you know, warm air rises, cold air taking its place. So there are currents of warm air rising from the earth. When Redtail could get one of these rising currents of air under his great wings he didn't have to flap them at all to go up, and up, until from below he no longer looked like a big bird. That was because he was so far away.



From it he could watch all that went on in and around Farmer Brown's dooryard.

The first time young Bob White ever saw Redtail was when the young quail was a prisoner in a pen in Farmer Brown's dooryard. One wing had been hurt by a dreadful gun, and young Bob had been lucky enough to be found by Farmer Brown's Boy. In that pen, he was safe. This morning young Bob had chanced to look up in the blue, blue sky just as Redtail the Hawk was directly overhead.

"I wonder who that bird is there is, and how he manages to stay up there without using his wings," thought the young quail. "I wish I could do that. He is no bigger than I. But I couldn't fly like that, even when both wings were good. I don't see how he does it."

The next time young Bob looked up Redtail was so high that he was little more than a speck. Then he began to grow bigger. He was coming down. He didn't come down fast. He came down very slowly. The young quail watching him couldn't believe his own eyes. His "little" bird was becoming a big bird, and growing bigger and bigger. In a few moments he had grown as big as Blacky the Crow, whom young Bob knew very well, and who was at that time the biggest of the feathered folk with whom the young quail was acquainted.

Down, and down, and down, came Redtail. And bigger, and bigger, and bigger he became. Young Bob became afraid. He forgot that so far no one had been able to get into that wire pen. He crept under the little pile of brush in one corner. Such great wings this visitor from up in the blue, blue sky had! He hadn't dreamed that there was anyone with such big wings. He had thought that the wings of the hens in the neighboring henyard were big. Now they seemed not big at all.

Redtail came down until he was only a little above the wire pen, and the young quail could see Redtail's great curved claws, and his hooked bill. The very sight of them made him shiver, and shiver. Somehow he had a feeling that the keen eyes looking down could see right through that brush under which he was hiding.

Perhaps they did. Anyway, Redtail knew where that young quail was. Those eyes of his are far-seeing eyes. Even when he was very high in the sky he had seen the young quail in that pen. He had seen him when he ran under that brush to hide. "That is one of Bob White's children. I wonder what he is doing there," thought he. It was partly out of curiosity that Redtail had come down. Now he flew over to a tall tree not far away. From it he could watch all that went on in and around Farmer Brown's dooryard.

Pensions May Be Major Issue In British Politics

By RON EVANS
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—The question of increased old age pensions shapes up as a major domestic issue in British politics.

The government has proclaimed that the increases are coming, and that there will be an announcement before Christmas. Opposition members are not satisfied, however, and Thursday the Labor shadow cabinet announced it will table a motion censuring the government for delay.

Deputy opposition leader Herbert Morrison asked during a debate in the House Monday whether the government was holding up the increases to coincide with a general election.

Pensions Minister Osbert Peake denied this. He said he could promise nothing before Christmas but the government was planning "the biggest and boldest" pension operation ever undertaken.

MAY STEAL THUNDER
Some observers today speculate that the opposition may be trying to steal the thunder from the government's plan of increases with demands for more speed.

Others say that a full-scale debate on pensions within the next two weeks could well swing the scales to Labor in the important West Derby by-election Nov. 18. A defeat there for the Conservatives, they say, would provide the Socialists with ammunition in their fight for a prompt general election.

The next general election must be held before the fall of 1956. Political opinion at the moment appears to favor autumn, 1955, as the likeliest time.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. Shaft of a feather (Zool.)
6. Girl's name
11. Strength
12. Custom
13. Mexican timber
14. Entertain
15. Enemy scout
16. Hits
17. Masurium (sym.)
18. Greek letter
20. Enclosure for horses (West. U. S.)
22. Friar's title
25. Spirit lamps
26. Biblical name
28. A king of Judah (Bib.)
29. Disgusting
31. Bobbins (Scott.)
32. Exclamation of disgust (slang)
33. Counsel
36. Indefinite article
37. Swallow, as liquid
38. A horse blanket
41. Italian poet
42. Shun
43. Make a solemn declaration
44. Freedom from war
DOWN
1. Sudden, muscular contraction
2. Small powder cases
3. Absent
4. Vitality
5. Epoch
6. Lake between New York and Vermont
7. Fabulous monster (Class. Myth.)
8. Touch end to end
9. Ascend
10. The sweetsop (P. I.)
16. Resort
18. Isthmus in Asia
19. Great blue heron
21. Indian of a primitive tribe (Tierra del Fuego)
22. Back
23. Fanciful
24. A fresh end
25. Water god (Babyl.)
27. Biblical animal
30. Coin (Swed.)
31. Tropical disease
33. Sum up
34. Declinate
35. Any climbing plant
36. Wild ox
38. Chart
39. Hall!
40. Any fruit, drink

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:
AXYDLBAAXR
is LONG FELLOW
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, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each copy the code letters are different.
A Cryptogram Quotation
BYV HLPMAJQVFY VLFH PS ZKJFPYQ
-QSABVFR.
Yesterday's Cryptogram: HONOUR SHOULD BE CONCERNED IN HONOUR'S CAUSE — SOUTHERN.,

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CHARLOTTETOWN

The Lone Ranger
ALL OUR BOYS WERE CONVICTED AND SENT TO PRISON.
I'M INDEBTED TO THE LONE RANGER FOR THE SMASHING OF MY GANG!
YEAH, AND ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, HE WILL FAIL, JAKE! I'M GOING TO GET HIM INSTEAD!
THE MASKED MAN IS OUT TO GET YOU NEXT!

L'il Abner
SADIE HAWKINS DAY DAWNS GRIM AND BLEAK, NATURALLY.
YOU ALL KNOWS TH' RULES. AT TH' FIRST SHOT, YO' FRIGHTENED RATS O' BACHELORS RUNS. AT TH' SECOND SHOT—
—TH' DOGPATCH BEAUTIES RUNS AFTER YO'. ANY UNFORTUN' NUT BACHELOR, DRUG BACK OVER TH' LINE BEFORE SUNDOWN, GOTTA MARRY UP WIF TH' SHUDDER-LOVELY YOUNG LADY WHUT DRUG HIM!
HAIN'T YO' GONNA RUN, WIDDER?
WHY WASTE MAH ENERGY, AHLL! JEST WAIT HERE, TH' FIX IS IN!!

Mickey Mouse
MINNIE HAS SOME SMELLING SALTS IN THE OTHER ROOM!
BOTH PAINTED! WONDER IF I MOVE, AND... AYYYYY!
HELP! POLICE! HELP!
MOST NERVOUS BURST EVER SAW!

Bringing Up Father
MY WIFE IS DUE AT MY OFFICE IN TEN MINUTES! NOW REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU TO SAY!
LEAVE IT TO ME, JOOE!
I'LL HAVE JESS SON A BLANK CHECK—JUST IN CASE I DECIDE ON A MORE EXPENSIVE ONE!
WHAT?—YOU'RE FILING A PETITION AGAINST US TODAY?—OH, PLEASE GIVE US A LITTLE MORE TIME!
TELL HIM I'M TRYING TO GET A LOAN FROM THE BANK!
YOU SAID ME THE PRICE OF A FUR COAT—HAVE ANOTHER ONE!

Joe Palooka
WE'VE DONE A NICE LITTLE POLL-TAKING. THERE'S THE RESULTS SO FAR, GENE.
GREAT! I'M GOING UP IN THE PUBLIC OPINION!
WHAT'S THE PERCENTAGE, GENE?
LOOKS AS THO FLAVIUS' POPULARITY IS CLIMBING, MAYOR GORDON.
AHM, YES... I'M AFRAID HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH JOE PALOOKA HAS HELPED.
WHY DON'T YOU SEE AND ASK HIM TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE WITH YOU?
I WOULDN'T DO THAT, IT'S MR. PALOOKA'S PRIVILEGE TO LINE UP FLAVIUS. EVEN IF HE'S UNAWARE OF HIS BAD CHARACTER.

Secret Agent X9
I HAVE SOME MAPS THAT WERE GIVEN TO ME IN DENVER. MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE FROM THEM WHERE THEY MIGHT BE HEADING!
I DON'T THINK SO AT ALL!
WHY?
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE! MUNDTY NEVER WORKED THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE! HE MADE HIS STRIKE MILES FROM HERE!

Etta Kett
WILMA AND BILL ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED! HOW EXCITING!
THEY'RE NOT TAKING THE LEAP TILL NEXT JUNE! CATCH ME WAITING THAT LONG!
A SHORT ENGAGEMENT, THAT'S FOR ME!
KISS A GIRL—POPTHE QUESTION—BUY THE LICENSE—THESE LONG-TERM ENGAGEMENTS ARE OUT!
YOU DOLL, THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL!
SOMEHOW IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT TO EXPECT A GIRL TO GIVE UP ALL HER OTHER DATES FOR MONTHS AND MONTHS!

Henry
PLUNK
CRASH
I WILL SEND THE BILL TO YOUR FATHER.
John Smith

Grandma
I'M JUST NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED!
LAST NIGHT I HAD ALL TH' FOOTBALL BOYS OVER FOR SUPPER...
AN' I ASKED FOR SOMEONE TO PLEASE PASS TH' SUGAR BOWL...
AN' THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!!

Muggs and Skeeter
GRAMPS, YOU DIDN'T GIVE ME MY ALLOWANCE YET TH' 5 WEEK!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU KNOW, SKEETER, WHEN I WAS A BOY I WOULDN'T GET THIS MUCH SPOONING MONEY IN A MONTH OF SUNDAYS...
BUT STILL YOU COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE OFF...
HOW'S THAT?
JUST WASHIN' IF YOU WERE A BOY NOW AND YOU GOT THE ALLOWANCE YOU DID THEN!!

Tilly the Toiler
PHEW!! IT'S TAKEN ME ALL MORNING TO WEED THE DEAD STUFF OUT OF THAT FILING CABINET.
AM I TIRED? GUESS I'LL FLOP DOWN ON THE COUCH FOR A WHILE!
I MUST HAVE DOTTED OFF, IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO HOME. I'LL CALL THE JANITOR TO COME AND CART ALL THAT STUFF AWAY. I'LL LET ON THE TABLE.
OH, NO!
MOST NERVOUS BURST EVER SAW!

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