

Contract Bridge

By Josephine Culbertson
THE KILLING LEAD

On the surface, West's opening lead selection in the following hand may look like an inspired guess, but precisely such leads are often made by experts under similar circumstances.

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

♠ K 8 7 3 2
♥ 10 9 8 5
♦ A 2
♣ J 3

♠ Q 3 9 4
♥ A 7 5
♦ K 7 8
♣ A 7

♠ 10 8
♥ K 10 6
♦ 5 3
♣ K Q 10 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♦ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass

South's two-heart rebid was a "reverse"—i.e., he had started with a lower-ranking suit and was now quite possibly forcing a choice at the three-level, so North acted properly in raising to three hearts even though his hand was not impressive. It might be noted that the four-heart contract would have been ironclad against most defenses.

It is fair to say that the average West would lead the queen of diamonds—in fact, no great criticism could be leveled against that lead. Observe, however, that South would then have clear sailing. He would simply give up a club, and whether or not the defenders countered with two rounds of trumps, South could ruff out his club suit, control all the other suits, and end up with a fulfilled contract.

The actual West, however, did not lead the diamond—he opened a low trump, and that was very unfortunate for the declarer. When the latter attempted to ruff out clubs, leading the ace and a low card in the suit, East won and returned the trump he still had. This let West remove all but one trump from dummy and the closed hand, and give declarer an insoluble problem.

Notice that a trump lead in itself was not enough—West had to start out with a low trump. The ace and another trump would not have embarrassed South. It was the fact that West left his partner with a card of communication in the trump suit itself that permitted knocking out enough trumps to defeat the contract.

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ORANGES FOR BRIDE
ISTANBUL (CP)—Turkish newspapers report that Ibrahim Ongan, 120 years old and a widower for 40 years, is looking for another wife. The reports say Ongan has received a wagonload of oranges from anyone who finds him a bride.

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BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES

By Thornton W. Burgess

THE INTERFERENCE
A double threat you sometimes see
A blessing in disguise to be.
—Old Mother Nature.

This morning Farmer Brown's Boy had decided to go over to the Big River where the water was flowing too fast for Jack Frost to cover it with ice. He wanted to see if any of his water-loving feathered friends were staying over there. He knew that probably he would find Mr. and Mrs. Quack, the Mallard Ducks, and perhaps their cousins, the Black Ducks. He had known Rattles the Kingfisher to spend a winter in that neighborhood, doing his fishing there in the open water every day. He hoped this morning to find Longlegs, the Great Blue Heron. Perhaps Longlegs hadn't gone South this year. Some years he didn't.

So, with Flip, the Terrier, Farmer Brown's Boy started across the snow-covered Green Meadows. Looking over to the Old Pasture, he saw a spot of red. He knew it had to be one of two folks, either Reddy Fox or Mrs. Reddy. He wondered how they were making out this hard winter weather; how they were finding enough to eat. He never ceased to wonder how his friends in fur and feathers managed to live from day to day when everything seemed against them.

As usual Flip raced far ahead of him. Flip had a lot to do on walks like this. He had to run from side to side as well as ahead, and examine everything in sight. Flip was always hopeful of finding someone to chase. He loves excitement, and there is no excitement to compare with that of chasing someone.

Flip was soon far ahead of his master. The latter was not watching him. He had discovered King Eagle circling above the Big River, and stopped to watch what King Eagle would do.

"He sees something down below, and is going down after it,"

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and the Big River when he saw a big bird circling above the Big River and coming down. Of course it was King Eagle. Flip didn't know who it was, and didn't care. If that bird came down on the snow it would be fun to make him fly again. So Flip started at top speed toward the place where King Eagle was coming down.

Down on the snow beneath King Eagle, helpless and hopeless, lay Dipper the Grebe who had remained too long in the Far North, and had become so tired from his long flight trying to reach open water, that his wings had given out, and he had fallen. Had he fallen in water, he would have been all right. As it was he was all wrong. That was because a Grebe cannot take to the air unless on water. Now, lying helpless, he looked up at King Eagle, and knew, or thought he knew, that there was no hope at all. Just as King Eagle was reaching to pick him up, there was interference. Flip the Terrier had arrived.

Now, lying helpless, he looked up at King Eagle.

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