

WITH THE COLORS

BARCLAY ON BRIDGE BARCLAY ON BRIDGE BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

Returns to Base. Sgt. Elton Jenks has returned to his post of duty at Elton, N. C. army air field after spending a two-week leave...

On Leave Here. Thomas W. Floyd, S. 2d, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Floyd, of Hendersonville is spending a two-day leave at home after completing his basic training at Baltimore, Maryland.

Now in States. Sgt. Paul Sumner, who has been in the United States of action for the past two years, has just returned to the States. Sgt. Sumner is the husband of Mrs. Nina Sumner, teacher at Asaock school.

Visiting Parents. Lt. Robert Turner, Jr., who is stationed at Columbia, S. C., and James R. Turner, ASTP student at APL, Annapolis, Md., are spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Turner, of their home on Highland street.

Receives Honorable Discharge. ANF trainee Walter R. Brannan, Mississippi Ordnance Plant, Florida, Miss. Dec. 26—Pvt. King D. Lunsford, Signal, North Carolina, was recently given an honorable discharge as the Army at the United States of the Army Service Forces Training Center (outstanding) Mississippi Ordnance Plant, Florida, Miss. in a certificate of physical disability.

Fighting in France. Pvt. James C. Watkins, route one, Kithurst, is stationed with the 60th Field Artillery Battalion in the Sixth Army group, in France. It was learned today that the battalion has been supporting French troops in Italy and France, and has been awarded the Croix de Guerre for its work with the French Expeditionary Corps in Italy.

With Field Artillery in Italy. Sgt. Robert Walter L. Bellinger, field, 8th North General staff, is serving with the 13th Field Artillery Brigade, which was recently awarded the Croix de Guerre in Italy, after it had driven from Cassino to Seine in support of the French, according to information received here today. The brigade is now completing a year of battle with the French, supporting the drive of the French First Army along the Seine border to Germany.

Receives Air Medal. 13th AAF in Italy, Dec. 26—Sgt. Sidney P. Cooper, Henderson North Carolina, has been awarded the Air Medal at a B-24 Liberator bomber base in southern Italy. Sgt. Cooper, 15th Air Force gunner, recently arrived in Italy and began combat flying immediately. Member of a veteran group that figured in the great Pleost attacks and the invasion of southern France, Cooper has flown missions into industrial Germany and attacked vital targets in Munich, Vienna, and heavily defended Blechnhammer. A graduate of Riverside Military Academy, Cooper entered the Air Forces in May 1943. His wife Mrs. Grace J. Cooper resides in Henderson.

With Signal Group. Pvt. Donald G. Clayton, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Clayton of route four, Henderson, is a message center clerk with a 13th AAF signal detachment in Italy, which was cited by a Liberator wing commander, Brig. Gen. Fay R. Updegrave, of Obern, N. Y., for outstanding performance of duty on the occasion of its second anniversary of operations, according to information received here today. Pvt. Clayton, who has spent the past 10 months in Africa and Italy, entered the army February 15, 1942.

With Bombardment Group. Pvt. 12th AAF B-24 Base, Dec. 26—Sgt. Charles F. Campbell, M. Fuller, Henderson, N. C., a veteran of the Eighth Air Force, has been his veteran Twelfth Air Force medium bombardment group on the island of Corsica. This The Red sergeant will serve as a gunner on a B-24 B. Fuller Mitchell bomber. Enlisting in the Army in October, 1942, Sergeant Fuller attended an armament school at Lewis Field, Denver, Colo., and received his gunner's wings at Fort Meyer, Fla. He has been awarded the Air Medal and is authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge with oakleaf wings signifying he is a member of a group that has twice been cited by the War Department. He is entitled to wear the European-Middle East-African theatre ribbon with two battle stars. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Frank Fuller, reside in Henderson.

PFC. MURPHY GETS THE PURPLE HEART

With U. S. Forces in France, Dec. 26—Private First Class Lawrence M. Murphy, son of George W. Murphy, 1920 Walters street, Henderson, North Carolina, has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while fighting as an infantryman in the battle of France. Pfc. Murphy attended the Henderson high school before entering the army.

COLISEUM IS PLANNED FOR THE STATE FAIR

Raleigh, Dec. 26—Long-range plans for the erections of a coliseum and the general expansion of livestock facilities for the N. C. State Fair were discussed at a recent meeting held here. Consensus of the group of agriculture leaders and livestock producers as expressed in several short talks was that the State Fair cannot function as an educational enterprise with its present housing conditions for showing and housing livestock placed on exhibit at the fair.

NOT PUNY, BUT MIGHTY

NO MATTER how puny and insignificant a little card might seem, it may swing the entire result on a hand. That principle can apply to low cards used as signals, to those retained so that you are able to lead to a higher one in the opposite hand, to little trumps played with the deliberate idea of having them over-ruffed, and in a variety of other types of situations.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: East, Neither side vulnerable. South West North East 1 Pass 2 Pass 3 Pass 4 Pass 5 Pass

South took the spade Q lead with his A and promptly embarked on the enterprise of setting up a club to discard a diamond. East won the club Q and led to the K, scored the spade K and led to the 10, whereupon West switched to the diamond 10. The Q got that, the heart 4 was led to the 9, the club J was covered by the A and ruffed by the heart 8, and the heart 10 to the Q put the lead in the dummy again.

A COUP AT THE START

MOST of the fancy plays which are known by fancy names come near the end of a hand, or else somewhere in the middle. But it is altogether possible for them, or at least most of them, to be employed on the very first trick. That is true of squeezes and the devices known as coups of one kind or another. Even the principle of the Deschappelles Coup can be applied then—deliberately sacrificing an honor by its lead from your own hand in order to build a later entry into your partner's.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: South, North-South vulnerable. South West North East 2 Pass 3 Pass 4 Pass 5 Pass

That bidding was merely sketched out to show how South might get into 5-Diamonds, the contract in which he finds himself on this problem deal created by Carlton Russell, contract bridge entrepreneur of St. Petersburg, Fla. Giving only two clues—the contract and that on both sides were "foxes," Mr. Russell offered prizes for the best answers to: "Can the contract be made against?"

THE HOLD-UP REVERSED

YOU BELIEVE see the play used by players in the average social rubber bridge game, but it occurs with far greater frequency among advanced cardmen—the suspenseful little play called the "duck." It is just the reverse of the hold-up principle, which is to keep your opponents from running the establishable cards of a suit. The idea of the "duck" is to enable you to run the establishable cards of your own suit.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: South, Both sides vulnerable. South West North East 1 Pass 2 Pass 3NT

Undoubtedly a better bid by North on his second turn would have been a preference showing 2-Spades as sounding not quite so weak and hopeless as 3-Clubs, but...

WHICH IS PREFERABLE?

THERE ARE deals which seem adapted to play for game at either a suit or No Trump, which offer a well-fitting trump suit of eight or more cards in your hand and partner's, and which also find you with apparently at least two stoppers in every other suit as well as the evenly balanced distribution considered best for No Trumps.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: East, Neither side vulnerable. South West North East 2 Pass 3NT

This presents a case in which South took the unsound choice between a trump and No Trump. With three cards of North's red suit, he knew the pair had at least eight cards of the suit, and should have preferred it to No Trumps for the reason that it was a major, requiring only 10 tricks for game. If it had been a minor, requiring 11, his best preference would have been No Trumps.

THE MAN WHO WROTE THE MOST CELEBRATED OF ALL CHRISTMAS POEMS WASN'T PROUD OF IT.

Clement Clarke Moore, Ph.D., did not care to have his name identified with the jingles that were, in spite of his wishes, to make him immortal. His "A Visit From St. Nicholas," better known as "The Night Before Christmas," was not published under his name for more than 20 years after he composed it, on the spur of the moment, on Christmas Eve, 1822. A graduate of a divinity school who was never ordained, Dr. Moore was then professor of Greek and Oriental Literature in the (Episcopal) General Theological Seminary and the author of the first Hebrew-English lexicon. He lived in a colonial mansion upon a slope just west of Ninth avenue, between Twenty-second and Twenty-third streets, Manhattan. The name of the estate, Chelsea, is still borne by that whole district of New York.

YOUR WEEK-END QUESTION

When you know your side has at least eight cards of some particular suit, and also has every other suit safely stopped, what is the main factor to determine which declaration should be preferred—the suit or No Trumps—as a game try?

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: East, Neither side vulnerable. South West North East 2 Pass 3NT

South then should have got to one game place, probably by bidding 2-No Trumps followed by North's 3-No Trumps.

THE MAN WHO WROTE THE MOST CELEBRATED OF ALL CHRISTMAS POEMS WASN'T PROUD OF IT.

The professor's wife, Catharine Taylor Moore, was making up baskets for the poor for Trinity Parish that Christmas Eve when she discovered she didn't have enough turkeys. She contacted the professor from his library and sent him to the store to get more. The streets through which he passed had real Christmas Eve dress-snow and moonlight. The cheeriness of the crowds in the streets and everything warmed up the usually aloof 43-year-old scholar. As he walked in the street he suddenly had the vision of Christmas as all children see it, and a poem about it formed in his mind. When he reached home, he wrote down the lines and he read them that evening to his seven children.



Prof. Moore's Home in the Chelsea, Section of New York City.

He had no thought of publishing the jingles, or indeed, of the poem ever going beyond his family hearthside. But it so happened that a young relative, Sarah Harriet Butler, visiting the Moores that Christmas, delightedly put a copy in her diary, and read it to her father, the Rev. David Butler, when she returned to her home in Troy, N. Y.

The minister sent it next year to a newspaper, where it appeared among the miscellany, Dec. 23, 1823. The author's name was not given. Other newspapers printed the jingles. They were placed on Christmas giveaways of merchants. They quickly became known all over the country, to the embarrassment of Dr. Moore, who feared to have it known he was the author. He considered it undignified for a man of his scholastic standing to be the author of children's jingles. Also, at that time, Christmas merriment of any kind was frowned upon by religious zealots; and the professor had to be mindful of his position in the church.

South took with the Q, and he properly went after spades in that suit he could not get nine. He put the J through to the Q, and East returned the heart. West winning the 4 with the 6 and leading the 3 to knock out the A. South had to hope against hope now that East did not have another heart. He led the spade 4 to the 10. The A won, and East sent back the heart 9 for West to score the 10 and K, setting the contract.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: North, Both sides vulnerable. South West North East 2 Pass 3NT

If West leads the club K and A, and if West leads the club K and A, West led the heart J, which distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ENTRIES FOR TWO LEADS

IF YOU are the declarer and the strength of your side is matched mainly in one of your two hands—your own or the dummy—it will pay you to make an examination at the very beginning to determine how many entries you can profitably use in the weaker hand. You may not intend to try to establish a long suit in it, but merely to get over there for a couple of leads to pressing combinations in the stronger hand. Such an inspection may show you the desirability of using an unnecessarily high card from the stronger hand on some early trick.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards for North, South, West, and East, and the dealer's hand.

Dealer: North, Both sides vulnerable. South West North East 2NT Pass 3 Pass

South was pretty lucky that North didn't get him into 5-Hearts with that ace, and that he was no higher than North would have put him without it. A slip made by South would have beaten a 5-Heart contract.

THE MAN WHO WROTE THE MOST CELEBRATED OF ALL CHRISTMAS POEMS WASN'T PROUD OF IT.

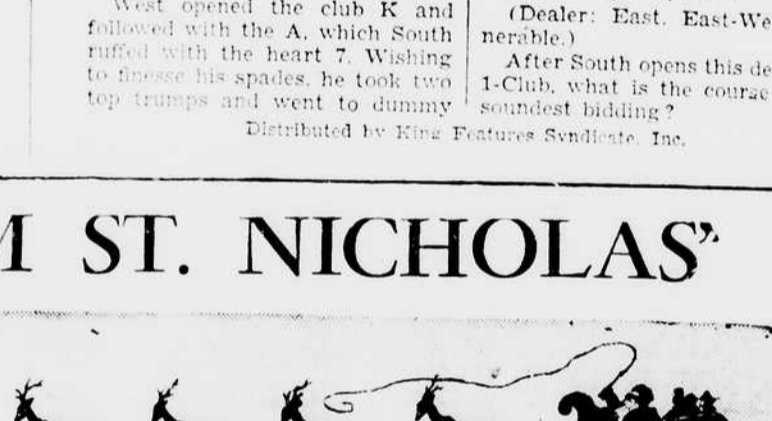
West opened the club K and followed with the A, which South ruffed with the heart 7. Wishing to finesse his spades he took two top trumps and went to dummy distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

"A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS"

To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a round little belly, That shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself, A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle; But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Illustration of a sleigh pulled by reindeer carrying gifts.

THE MAN who wrote the most celebrated of all Christmas poems wasn't proud of it.



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Twenty-two years later, when he had finally acknowledged authorship publicly, and "A Visit From St. Nicholas" was brought out in book form under his name for the first

time, the jingles had become a classic in the public domain, and he could not reap royalties from all the publications. Ironically, the professor's serious works are forgotten today. He is mentioned in encyclopedias because he wrote the celebrated Christmas verses. Numerous direct descendants of childhood home where he himself hung up Christmas stockings and waited for visits from St. Nicholas, survives in what is now Elmhurst, L. I. His grave, in upper Trinity cemetery, at 155th street and Broadway, is decorated each Dec. 24th by persons who remember with affection his now deathless residence no longer stands, but the lines that appear above.

Prof. Moore as He Visualized His Poem, Returning from Market on Christmas Eve—a Drawing Made by the World Renowned Artist WILLIAM SHARP.



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