

EASY LESSONS IN AUCTION BRIDGE

By PAUL H. SEYMOUR Author of "Highlights on Auction Bridge" (Copyright by Hoyts, Jr.) Article Twenty-One.

Declarer's Play of a No Trump—Finessing

DECLARER'S play of a no trump offers opportunity for the exercise of all of those faculties which a good player must use. Memory, reasoning, deductions and inferences all must be brought to bear upon the one point—getting the greatest possible number of tricks from the twenty-six cards of declarer and dummy. Here finessing is one of the most frequently used methods of obtaining an extra trick or two, and a thorough understanding of it is absolutely necessary.

First let us have a definition: "Finessing is trying to take a trick with a certain card when there is a higher one unplayed, the location of which is unknown." If the location of this higher card is unknown it must be held by an adversary; but declarer does not know which adversary holds it.

The simplest form of finessing is when dummy holds Ace, Queen and others of a suit, and declarer has only small ones. In taking this finesse or in finessing against the King, as it is called, declarer leads low from his hand and if senior plays low, dummy's Queen is played. If senior holds the King the Queen will win the trick and the finesse is successful; but if junior has the King, the Queen is taken by it and the finesse loses.

According to the law of averages the King will be held on each side just one-half of the time and therefore this finesse has even chances of winning or losing. If, however, a player does not take the finesse "because he is afraid of losing" as some say, and then is obliged to lead the Queen he loses it ninety-nine times out of one hundred. Therefore, a finesse of this kind always should be taken unless some further circumstance makes it undesirable to do so.

Another common finesse is when holding Ace and small ones in one hand and Queen, Jack and small ones in the other. Here the Queen should be led toward the Ace and if the King is not played by second hand a low card should be played from the hand holding the Ace. If second hand holds the King, the Queen will win the trick and the Jack should be led. If the King is still held up the Jack is passed through and wins and the Ace will catch the King unless second hand held three guards for it.

When holding Ace, Queen and ten in one hand there is an opportunity to take a double finesse, (against the King and Jack) by playing the ten, or to take the single finesse (against the King) by playing the Queen. Experience has shown that in such a case it is advisable to take the double finesse when holding eight or less cards in the suit in both hands; but take the single finesse when holding nine or more.

When holding Ace and small ones in one hand and Queen and small ones in the other, the proper way to lead is low towards the Queen. Here again there is an even chance of winning with the Queen because if second hand holds the King up the Queen takes the trick, and if second hand plays the King the Queen will take a trick later, while, of course, if fourth hand holds the King the Queen is lost.

With Ace, King, Jack and others divided between the two hands it is best to lead the Ace or King first and then decide whether or not it is best to finesse against the Queen. The fall of the cards on the first trick may give some indication of the location of the Queen, or it may even be caught as there is a chance of its being held alone.

One of the most important helps in deciding which way to finesse is to think of the bidding and try to visualize the hands from the information so gained. If there has been no bidding the best way is to decide where you would like to find a certain card and then play just as if you knew it was there.

In deciding whether or not to take a finesse one should consider the gain which will result from its success compared with the loss incurred if it fails. If its success is necessary to secure game or a slam, while its failure will not endanger the contract it should be taken; but if its success would mean only a fifth odd trick at a major suit declaration, while its failure would endanger game or contract, it should not be risked.

Forming a Language

All the glamor, the meaning—the hidden meaning, if you will—of words, is nothing but time, and custom, and what is and what is not, combined by men through organization and rules into a great result.

This result, which we call language, gives us reading and writing—gives us books, newspapers, magazines—gives us a range of action and thinking that were utterly impossible without it.

There are more than 400,000 words in the English language now, and of this number the average person uses only a few thousand. They suffice. The remainder await our usage, hoping that we will call them into life from the dusty covers of the dictionaries. Surely we ought to respond, now and then, and help a good word out.—Exchange.

St. Valentine's Day



A VALENTINE OF OUR GREAT GRANDMOTHERS' DAY Photos © by Walford Hancock

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

LIKE Christmas, St. Valentine's day combines in its traditions a queer mixture of Christian and pagan elements. It derives its name from an early Christian martyr—two of them, say some historians—but its observance comes straight from the ancient Romans, who not only were not Christians but who showed what they thought of Christianity by their playful habit of feeding large numbers of that religious sect to the lions.

The first St. Valentine was one of these early Christian martyrs, although his martyrdom was not via the lion route. During the reign of the Emperor Claudius a certain Bishop Valentinus was brought before the emperor and the high priest, Calpurnius, charged with a series of high crimes against the Roman gods. When faced by his accusers, the bishop started to make a plea for the Christian cause, but he was silenced and hurried away to Asturium, noted as the severest of Roman judges and one who had a particular hatred of Christians, to be tried and sentenced.

Meanwhile the emperor sent a secret message to Asturium commanding him to use every means possible to win Valentinus back to the native gods and to try to save his life. When the bishop was questioned by Asturium and found to be firm in his adherence to the new religion, the Roman exclaimed, "If your God is indeed the light of the world, let Him prove His divine power by restoring sight to my blind daughter!"

"Bring her to me," answered Valentinus, and when the blind girl was brought before him he laid his hands upon her head and prayed aloud for the restoration of her sight. Then, so runs the legend, her sight was indeed restored, and Asturium was so impressed by this miracle that he and all of his household forswore their pagan gods and were baptized into the Christian faith by Valentinus.

Valentinus' Martyrdom

When the emperor heard of this, he was furious, not only at the bishop but also at his greatest noble who had thus deserted him. He immediately ordered Asturium and all of his family imprisoned and the Christian bishop first to be beaten in public and then beheaded. What happened to Asturium or his family, history does not record, but in the case of the bishop, the emperor's orders were carried out. He suffered flagellation and was executed on the Flamman Way leading from Rome to Ariminum on the Adriatic sea. The year in which this took place is in dispute. At least three dates—270 A. D., 278 A. D. and 306 A. D.—are variously given, but it is certain that the execution took place on a day corresponding to our February 14. At any rate, the martyrdom of Valentinus, the bishop, made him St. Valentine and his remains are enshrined in the church of St. Praxedis in Rome. A gate in Rome was also named after him, Porta Valentini, but it was later changed to Porta del Popolo.

Although Bishop Valentinus was the original St. Valentine there was another bishop who bore that name. He was from Litteramma, he was also a bishop and a martyr and performed many miracles before he was executed.

Meant Well

"Since my wife left me," wailed the poor chap to his friend, "I've been going straight to hell."
"I'm terribly sorry," sympathized friend. "Really, old chap, I'd help you if I could."

The Last Straw

First Gangster—Vatcha teavin' town for, Pete?
Second Gangster—Well, the roads about town are so bad it's impossible to handle a machine gun.



A VALENTINE OF THE PERIOD OF 1830



ONE OF THE VALENTINES OF OUR GRANDMOTHERS' PERIOD

But beyond that, little seems to be known of his career and certainly nothing in the lives of either Saint Valentine would seem to have given rise to the frivolous celebrations of the day dedicated to these two saints.

Significance Lost

For the religious significance of St. Valentine's day has been entirely lost and the celebration of the anniversary as we know it comes from the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia, one of the special feasts of which was what was called the "lottery of love." In the "lottery of love" the names of young women were placed in a box or some other receptacle from which they were drawn by young men who thereupon became their sweethearts for the following year.

How this pagan custom came to be associated with the day dedicated to a Christian saint is explained by an early writer as follows:

It was the practice in ancient Rome, during a great part of the month of February, to celebrate the Lupercalia, which were feasts in honor of Pan and Juno, whence the latter deity was named Februata, Februallis and Februaria. On this occasion amidst a variety of ceremonies, the names of the young women were put in a box from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. The pastors of the early Christian church, who, by every possible means, endeavored to eradicate the vestiges of pagan superstitions, and chiefly by some commutations of their forms, substituted, in the present instance, the names of particular saints instead of those of the women; and as the festival of Lupercalia had commenced about the middle of February they appear to have chosen St. Valentine's day for celebrating the new feast, because it occurred nearly at the same time. It would seem, however, that it was utterly impossible to extirpate altogether any ceremony to which the common people had been much accustomed—a fact which it were easy to prove in tracing the origin of various other popular superstitions. And, accordingly, the outline of the ancient ceremonies was preserved, but modified by some adaptation to the Christian system. It is reasonable to suppose that the above practice of choosing mates would gradually become reciprocal in the sexes and that all persons so chosen would be called Valentines, from the day on which the ceremony took place.

There is one other touch which needs to be added to the St. Valentine's tradition to make this strange composite complete. Among the ancients it was popularly believed that the mating season of birds began in the middle of February and from that grew the legend of February 14 as the exact date. So St. Valentine's day is a combination of a natural

SHE DIDN'T NECK

ing so I should certainly wash my face."
True Enough
Mrs. Boggs—That Jinks woman reminds me of an old setting hen.
Mrs. Banks—Yes, she's always brooding over something.
Proud Papa!
"Triplets," announced the nurse to the proud father.
"Really?" he said. "I can hardly believe my own census."

Community Building

More Study Given by Architects to Color

Increasingly beautiful American cities are foreseen by Harry Boehm, a well-known New York architect, as a result of the greater attention given by architects to the effects of local atmospheric conditions on sunlight and color.

A material which may look well enough in one city may be a drab failure in another, Boehm points out, solely because of the almost imperceptible difference in the quality of the sunlight. This, he explains, is not necessarily caused by such obvious factors as smoke, or dust. It may result from the far more subtle conditions of atmospheric moisture, or density, changing the spectral composition of the light.

"These conditions, however, need no longer hamper the property owner or architect," Mr. Boehm asserts. "Building materials today offer a color range amply wide, and with sufficiently delicate distinctions of shade, to satisfy any needs. It is simply up to the designer to choose wisely, and as a general rule, he is doing so, today."

"He must know that color, as we see it, is reflected light. Certain pigments absorb certain portions of the light which falls upon them, and reflect other portions. No material can appear to have a color which is not a part of the light in which it is viewed. As the light changes in quality, the color of the material seems to change."

Small Town Hotels

Meet New Conditions

Improved highways and motor-car tourists have brought a new day to the hotels in smaller cities and towns and developed opportunities for business not known before. And the hotels have moved promptly to meet the new condition. Changes and improvements have been made quickly. One may stop with entire confidence in most places today when touring, find a tidy room, a good bed, a bath and appetizing food, in any small town hotel near any of the principal highways.

One finds these improvements well developed along the older tourist highways and finds progress completed or in evidence along the newer highways. These small hotel people have been wise. They have not built too largely, but they have built well. They understand how certainly the tourist longs for a bath after a day of travel, how a neat exterior makes the hotel inviting, how a clean and comfortable room is welcomed, and they have made abundant preparations to satisfy the appetite sharpened by the day's ride in the open air.—Ohio State Journal.

Municipal Progress

Examples of civic enterprise have been and are being furnished, in abundance. There was an example in the city of Dallas, to vote on a bond issue of \$24,000,000, the equivalent, in view of the city's size, of a \$50,000,000 issue in Kansas City. There were the examples of Detroit, St. Louis and numerous other centers which either have definitely launched or are far advanced on big improvement programs.

The lesson of this kind of situation cannot be ignored. It affords a test for every city in the country. It is coming to be the standard by which municipal progress is measured. The city that hesitates, delays and allows itself to become known as a laggard now soon will be hopelessly out of the competition for more population, more industries, more capital to be invested in new enterprises of a varied kind. No other large center needs more to learn the lesson just now than Kansas City.—Kansas City Star.

Home Pays Dividends

Aside from the sentimental satisfaction which a family feels, there are many other reasons why a home should be owned. Aside from being the dearest worldly possession and the best legacy a man can leave, it will provide shelter when earnings are missing, promote systematic saving and present an ever present incentive to abolish waste. It will pay dividends for a lifetime. These dividends will be increased when the home is clear and rent money can be saved, with interest.

Keep the Tramps Out

A plan that will keep the tramp-out of town is worth more than any scheme for taking care of them after they get there. An arrangement for putting them to work seems desirable from two viewpoints. It would probably keep many out and it would also provide a means of handling any that drifted in despite the reputation of the town for putting vagabonds to work.—Anniston (Ala.) Star.

When Surface Needs Paint

Generally by observation of the paint the condition can be determined if this is not manifest, rub your finger over the surface and if it shows any sign of chalking or if cracking or scuffing have begun, repainting should be done at once.



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Another Attempt Only

Fair to Shakespeare

The late John Drew hated bad acting. He would often express this hate in a witty and cruel manner. An English actor played Hamlet one night in New York and was afterward the guest of honor at the Players' club. He sought out Drew there and said:

"Well, how did you like my Hamlet?"

"Do you want the truth?" said Drew. "Yes."

"It was awful."
"I'm afraid you're right," said the Englishman. "I felt that way while I was playing. I'll never attempt Hamlet again."

"Oh, but you must," Drew said earnestly. "Your performance tonight, you see, has made Shakespeare turn in his grave. Well, you can't leave him like that, lying face downward, can you? You must play Hamlet just once more; then he'll turn over and be comfortable again."

No Results

Admiral Eberle at a dinner in Washington was talking about a critic of the navy.

"This man's criticism," he said, "reminds me of a colored farmer. An insurance agent called on him one day and said:

"Your accident policy runs out next month, Mr. White. You're going to renew, of course?"

"No. Ah hain't gwine ter renew," said Wash White. "Ah been insured in yore company fo' teen years, sah, and Ah hain't had one single blessed accident. So natherly Ah's gwine ter change to a better company now."

Rice Production

Although the Orient produces about 97 per cent of the world's rice crop, the United States now grows more than enough to supply its own needs.

If Back Hurts Begin on Salts

Flush Your Kidneys Occasionally by Drinking Quarts of Good Water

No man or woman can make a mistake by flushing the kidneys occasionally, says a well-known authority. Too much rich food creates acids which clog the kidney pores so that they sluggishly filter or strain only part of the waste and poisons from the blood. Then you get sick. Rheumatism, headaches, liver trouble, nervousness, constipation, dizziness, sleeplessness, bladder disorders often come from sluggish kidneys.

The moment you feel a dull ache in the kidneys or your back hurts, or if the urine is cloudy, offensive, full of sediment, irregular of passage, or attended by a sensation of scalding, begin to drink soft water in quantities; also get about four ounces of Jad Salts from any reliable pharmacy and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys may then act fine.

This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for years to help flush clogged kidneys and stimulate them to activity, also to help neutralize the acids in the system so they no longer cause irritation, thus often relieving bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink, which everyone can take now and then to help keep the kidneys clean and the blood pure, thereby often preventing serious kidney complications.

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 5-1928.