

Fun-loving partnerships win out

"Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplished no victories without it."

Walt Whitman



WOODY BOYD

Some partnerships vitalize our glorious bridge playing society by just being the marvelous fun loving people they are and I have two from Birmingham who fit that bill perfectly.

Jack and Linda Schechter are my Mr. Chairman and Madame President of the joyful majority of fun-loving partners playing the game today. In my opinion, their exemplary conduct is an earnest endeavor to be what they truly are at or away from the table. That, in this one's conception, translates into a pleasant occasion for playing and a fun time for all.

In my few years at duplicate, I've seen those who take liberties with their personalities and that often spurs a flurry. Best we always try and be what we truly are even though in doing so we sometimes act the way we'd like not to be.

The Roth/Stone personality explosions of 40 years ago were the most celebrated examples of human discipline on holiday the bridge world has ever known. Yet even today, we have "little Vesuvius" and some are in our immediate midst. I am told that this is because of the competitive intensity our game generates, but I believe that's not the whole story.

The true ladies and gentlemen of bridge, like my stars of today's column, cap their dissatisfaction and concentrate on what's yet to come. Not easy I agree, but it certainly lends to very pleasant play.

Sitting southeast in a front row kibitzers seat last week, I thoroughly enjoyed J&L's game. Linda I would consider a well trained and disciplined performer whose technique needs only the experience of rubbing hubs with the experts as I am sure she will in her years of play yet ahead. Jack is the first one to admit that he'd prefer to play the game better and I believe in time the desire will drive him to do it.

Today's hand defended by my stars is a page one headline story, but my paper wouldn't give me the space. Seldom is the road to glory paved by such a performance by the opening leader especially against a slam, but remember approximately 62 percent of the time there is a given lead that will defeat a given contract. The problem is to find it. Our lovely Linda did, can you?

| | | | |
|-----|-------|----|------|
| W | Linda | E | Jack |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♥ | - |
| 3♠ | 3♠ | 4♥ | - |
| 4NT | - | 5♣ | - |
| 6♥ | - | - | - |

N/S vulnerable

| | | |
|---------|---------|------|
| 4 | AKQJ762 | 98 |
| AKQJ105 | 764 | 9832 |
| K | 43 | 1098 |
| J1098 | ---- | AK5 |

| | |
|--------|------|
| Linda | E |
| 1053 | 98 |
| ---- | 9832 |
| 7652 | 1098 |
| Q76432 | AK5 |

Ned?

Linda recognized that the defense had limited weaponry to work with and that suggested an absence of constraint might be the only play to make that would be decisive. After all East had shown a two suit fit (4 hearts over 3 clubs) and West had to have a lot of high cards. Could Jack have the spade ten? With six spades missing, it was almost twice as likely that card would be in one of the opponents hands, but Columbus took a chance five centuries ago, why shouldn't she? Imagine Jack winning the ten! That would certainly shock him into the appropriate club play and a most likely top. Of course, that's what great plays are all about. So she did; Linda led the spade deuce!

Unfortunately, I didn't record Jack's job when his ten won trick one, but he is a veteran and immediately perceived that something unusual was expected of him. In something under 10 seconds, a club was ruffed and Linda's brilliance had produced a much discussed top. West, I was later told, has been under doctor's care ever since. Unquestionably it was an inspirational lead and when it works, you're a candidate for an academy award. I asked Linda to let me know when her imagination gets active again, but as she said, "Columbus has but one 5th century anniversary."

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township. To leave a message for Boyd, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1853.

Opportunities to help senior citizens abound



RENEE MAHLER

Q. My husband and I have just moved to the Rochester/Troy area from Canada. I seriously want to become involved with any type of volunteer work to help senior citizens. My problem seems to be in knowing where to go to offer my services. I am hoping that you will give some thought to my dilemma and offer some advice as to where and to whom I might approach in order to volunteer. I would prefer the Rochester/Troy area. My availability is unlimited and I would very much like to become involved with the community as soon as possible. I also drive and have a car.

A. There are many organizations in your area that will be very happy to discuss volunteer opportunities with you. Without the help of a volunteer corps many programs and service could not exist. There are several long-term care or nursing home facilities in the Rochester and Troy areas. You can reach Penchwood Inn at 313-852-7800 or Mercy Bellebrooke, 313-656-3239. The Older Persons Commission, located in Rochester, is a senior center. Their telephone number is 313-656-1403. There is also the Troy Senior Center which can be reached at 313-524-3484. Please call Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

Nursing homes and senior centers offer a variety of volunteer opportunities from friendly visitation to meal delivery. I am certain they will be happy to

have you work in those areas that are of interest to you. I know they will also be happy to work within your time availability schedule as well. Welcome to the community. Your interest and future involvement are most welcomed. Certainly your volunteer work will do much to benefit older adults and you will enjoy the satisfaction of being able to help those who need dedicated individuals such as yourself.

Q. My husband and I are in our 70s. We are concerned about costs should either of us become ill. A friend has told us that it pays to belong to a health maintenance organization (HMO). We need some information as to whether or not this is a good choice for us.

A. Enrolling in a health maintenance organization (HMO) can help to minimize the cost for doctor's services or hospital care if the HMO will accept Medicare beneficiaries. If they do then the HMO will provide a wide variety of prepaid health services for you.

These services are without large co-insurance charges or deductibles. Some of the HMOs also include some non-Medicare covered services such as dental care and prescription drugs.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offers several excellent free pamphlets that should help you make your decision. The names of these booklets are "More Health for Your Dollar: An Older Persons Guide to HMOs" and "Choosing an HMO: An Evaluation Checklist". To order these pamphlets write to: AARP Fulfillment, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20009. The order number for the first booklet is D1195, the second is D1244.

Hotlines to phone for helping seniors

Here's a list of toll-free numbers that may be of help and interest to older adults and their families. These toll-free hotlines

may be able to assist the callers in finding the information they require.

- Social Security Assistance 1-800-424-8666
- 1-800-772-1213
- Hospice 1-800-232-3472
- 1-800-331-1620
- Energy Assistance 1-800-292-6650
- Cancer Information Center 1-800-422-6237
- Arthritis Foundation 1-800-283-7800
- Taxpayers Information (Federal) 1-800-829-1040
- Taxpayers Assistance (State) 1-800-487-7000
- American Council for the Blind 1-800-292-7852
- American Diabetes Association 1-800-232-3472
- American Paralysis Association 1-800-225-0292
- American Parkinson's Disease Association 1-800-223-2732
- Auto Repair Complaints 1-800-292-4204
- Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center 1-800-272-2800
- Citizens for Better Care 1-800-292-7852

Group aims to deter youngsters from crime

A group called Partners Against Crime wants volunteers to help it steer kids away from antisocial behavior.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, and 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16.

The PAC program and Detroit's 36th District Court match youthful non-violent criminals with probation volunteers. During the period of probation they meet weekly. For more information, call 569-7223.

PAC will have three introductory meetings at 15999 W. 12 Mile Road in Southfield to enlist volunteers. The meetings will occur 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1-3 p.m.

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FINAL WALK-IN REGISTRATION

Monday, January 4 through Wednesday, January 6
9 am - 8 pm

Registration Sites: Auburn Hills, Highland Lakes, Orchard Ridge and Royal Oak Campuses

Classes begin Thursday, January 7

Note: Registration is by last name, alphabetical sequence.

There is no late registration this Winter!

For further information, call OCC Admissions 540-1549

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