

Highly valued but little known

THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

'A good teacher affects eternity for one can never tell when his influence has ended.' Henry Adams

I have always attributed my limited advancement in this game specifically to three lords of authority, Oswald Jacoby, Ira Rubin and Tom Smith, who unselfishly gave much to get me to my present plateau of play. But there was another fine player with patience whom I will tell you about today.

Herb Levine of northern New Jersey, like the late Fred Robinson of Birmingham, is one of the little-known great players of our game. I know of nothing that has been written about him, and few even know of his name. Yet among a tight little mix of Manhattan's best masters, Herb's expertise is held highly. Like Tom Smith, Dan Morse and a handful more, he is quiet, precise and extremely pleasing to play with. Herb, from his earliest days on the University of Michigan campus, some 30 years ago, was considered exceptional. Our own present-day world master, Chuck Burger of West Bloomfield, played in the Student Union game of that day, and he believes it was composed of the greatest college players of that era. Beside Herb and Chuck, it included world bridge, federation grand master Jacqui Mitchell; Barry Crane; 500 winner Zeke Jabbour, and a number of slightly lesser lights. Dick Lawrence of Ann Arbor fondly remembers them all. He used to play with them and, as he said, 'it was a very tough game.'

Herb chose not to be a star of our game. If he had, there's no way of determining what his acclaim might have been. No one who knows his ability will question that he would have been one of the kings of the last three decades. His priorities are such that, even today, you only find him playing in one of Manhattan's tough games at best once a week.

One of my most-memorable moments was playing with Herb in the summer of '88 Epsom World Wide Pairs, and that was almost before I even knew what duplicate play was about. Today's hand from that game taught me something about how much the wily match-point master loves to preempt. Note how Herb handled his opponent's intervention and subsequent play.

W	N	E	Herb
-	1♥	4♦	DBL
-	5♠	-	6NT

N/S vulnerable

♠ 72	♠ 5
♥ AKQ92	♥ J4
♦ 84	♦ QJ107652
♣ K987	♣ 42

♠ J10843	♠ A5
♥ 876	♥ J4
♦ 3	♦ QJ107652
♣ Q1053	♣ 42

W, led ♠ 3

Herb's most descriptive bid over four diamonds wasn't absolutely clear. He knew any bid past four hearts may place us in peril, but West had passed and East's act of snatching our bidding space suggested we had a commanding array of high cards that he didn't wish us to uncover. We only played negatives through four clubs, so I was uncertain what to do. On numerous preceding occasions, Herb had told me, 'The purpose of bidding is to describe your H.C.P. and shape.' So it finally seemed right for me to bid five clubs in our vulnerable condition.

My dummy was less than partner had expected, but he told me by his facial expression. The count suggested there might be two spades, five hearts, two diamonds and two clubs, but where was he to find the slam fulfilling trick? Watch his wizardry at work! He won the diamond ace and played a small heart to dummy's ace. Now a small spade, and East popped with his ace to play another high diamond, which Herb won with his king. At trick (5), his heart 10 to dummy's king, and ran the remaining hearts, pitching club jack and diamond. Usually a squeeze comes later, but at trick (8) when Herb plays dummy's last heart, West had it. He can't protect both black suits, so he threw a spade, hoping East had the queen.

♠ 7	♠ 5
♥ 2	♥ -
♦ -	♦ -
♣ K987	♣ 42

♠ J106	♠ A5
♥ -	♥ -
♦ -	♦ 76
♣ 105	♣ 42

In all, my favorite Manhattan master won three spades, five hearts and two tricks in each minor for a nice bit of voodoo execution.

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.

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FASHION CALENDAR

- FRIDAY, DEC. 11**
- Holiday show**
Swarovski Holiday Show, with representative visit, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Fashion Jewelry Level One, at Neilman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy.
 - Laura Ashley**
Afternoon tea 4-6 p.m. every Friday through the holidays at Laura Ashley at the Somerset Collection in Troy.
 - Resort wear**
DKNY Resort Collection, with representative Pat Hansen, in Active Sportswear, First Floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.
- SATURDAY, DEC. 12**
- Intimate apparel**
Informal modeling noon to 4 p.m. in Intimate Apparel, Level Two, at Neilman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy.
- MONDAY, DEC. 14**
- Bridal fashions**
Ticket sales begin Dec. 14 for full day of bridal fashions and information Saturday, Jan. 23, hosted by Hudson's in Southfield.
- TUESDAY, DEC. 15**
- Karl Lagerfeld**
Spring Collection by Karl Lagerfeld through Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Linda Dresner, 299 W. Maple, Birmingham.
- At "A Marriage of Style" Bridal Fair**, morning, afternoon and evening wedding fashions will be presented for the entire wedding party at the Southfield Pavilion. Brunch will be served, and communications expert Dr. Loreta Malandri will speak. Afterward, guests will be taken to Hudson's Northland to meet with representatives who can answer questions about products for their gift registering. Entertainment and gifts. For tickets at \$12.50 per person, call 443-6332.
- Diane M**
Cruise collection from Paris including suits, shirts and shorts shown 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Thursday, Dec. 17, at Diane M, 100 N. Woodward, Birmingham.
- "Warmwear Week"**
Men's "Warmwear Week," featuring hats, scarves, gloves and weather-beating accessories, in Men's Shop, First Floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Area patients need drivers

The American Cancer Society is seeking new members for its Road to Recovery Program. This is a group of volunteers who drive cancer patients living in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties to and from medical facilities for life-saving treatments.

Drivers are needed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you have a car and are able to spare some time during these hours, call the Cancer Control Patient Service Department at 1-800-926-2271.

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