

The problem was with his partner — his wife



WOODY BOYD

A bridge sewing circle gathers to chit-chat and "dam" partners. The day may come when I quit scribbling bridge but certainly not until I've written about most of the noteworthy dignitaries of our wondrous game. Two at the top of my docket are Jeff and Sheila Lesser who have been at this challenge of playing well together a dozen and some years.

They would, in my opinion, head everyone's parade for their pleasant presentation and easy-to-play-with way. But don't confuse this cordial demeanor with their determination to perform competent deeds, for they are continual winners at our 62-divided four-ways game.

Jeff tells a wonderful story about their first national tournament some years ago in Chicago. Their heavenly honeymoon at or away from the table was in its third year, and it was a praiseworthy example of affection and respect.

It seems that in an instant of naught, Sheila had failed to give her partner a ruff that would have limited declarer to one trick less than the amount contracted for. Here was the moment the fun-loving Jeff had been forever waiting for.

"Director!" he called, quickly stepping away from the table three feet out of ears' reach, as one appeared. "What's your problem?" the director inquired. With a straight face, Jeff quietly explained to him that he wanted a new partner. "What's wrong with the one you've got?" the director asked. Jeff told him it was his wife, and she didn't know what she was doing. The totally-taken-in official didn't know what to say. First he

glanced at Sheila, demurely sitting at the table, then back at Jeff. Totally discomfited, but not recognizing he was being put on, he sympathetically acknowledged Jeff's plight but stammered apologetically, "I'm sorry, buddy, but I can't get involved in this one," and hurriedly walked away.

Back at their hotel room after the game, Sheila queried her husband about the earlier interruption, and when Jeff explained the recreational diversion he had executed, she had misgivings. "You, sir," she half-seriously remonstrated, "are a cruel player and don't be surprised if a director someday gets even." Needless to say, Jeff has since had his doubts about Sheila's suggestion they play in Chicago again.

Have you ever watched the performance of a modestly talented declarer in an obvious playing jam? Most such mediocre performers turn off their thoughts and look for heaven to help or a strike of lightning to illuminate their way. Note Sheila's procedure in just such a difficult predicament.

The Lessers found this fine slam recently at one of our club games against two of our best and Sheila's declensions for a dozen would decide the hand's destiny. That certainly wasn't going to be easy, as 11 were

there, but the 12th trick seemed away in some card-hidden crevice.

Could she pitch a minor loser on a successful spade finesse? That didn't seem as attractive as dropping the queen third. If that didn't work, what next? She won the club queen and played the trump ace. Next she spade ace, king, and ruffed the spade nine high, and the old maid didn't show. She entered dummy with the trump queen and ruffed the last spade. Next she got out with a club, concluding that whoever won it wouldn't have the diamond king, which was not a very attractive card to lead away from at trick (9).

Either the diamond play was forced or a sluff and ruff from another club. East won the club 10 and immediately played a small diamond. Sheila stuck to her brilliant hunch and played low from dummy. East's king was captured by Sheila's ace, and the diamond queen in dummy was the fulfilling trick. Some kind of wonderful mind this Mrs. Lesser has, and you now can see why they're continual winners.

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.

9 to 5 group announces 2 meetings for summer

The newly formed Detroit chapter of 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women, schedules summer meetings for a woman's educational series on workplace issues the second Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham.

Anna Russo, president of Success Strategies and Certified NLP Master Trainer, will speak July 14. She has developed a personal evolution program designed to change potential into results that will empower women to communicate effectively in resolving workplace conflicts. Jayne Cucchiara,

attorney, will speak Aug. 11, about legal rights in the workplace, as well as other employment law issues. All meetings are free and open to the public. The group 9 to 5 is a 20-year-old national association for working women, dedicated to educating workers about their

rights on the job; informing the public and elected officials about concerns of working women; and taking direct action to improve policies affecting women, such as family leave and child care legislation, as well as providing the nation's only Job Problem Hotline, 1-800-522-0925.

Jeff	E	Sheila	W
3♥	—	1♥	—
4♠	—	4♠	—
5♠	—	6♥	Passed out

1. Limit 9-11 H.C.P.

N/S Vulnerable	♠ K J 9 5 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 5 3	♠ Q 10 8 4 ♥ 3 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ J 9 8 7 6
	♠ 8 3 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ J 9 6 5 ♣ K Q 10 4	♠ A 7 ♥ A K 10 7 5 4 2 ♦ A 10 ♣ A 2

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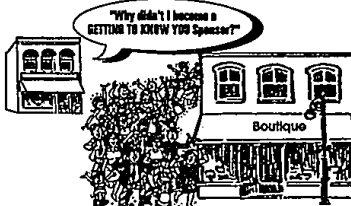


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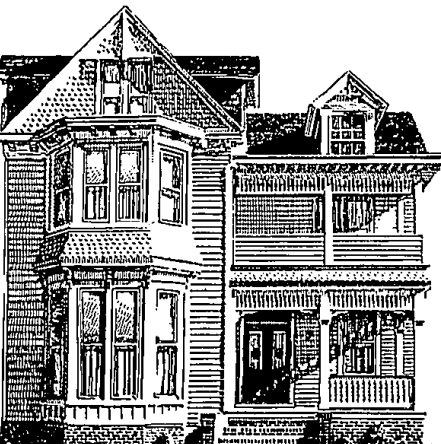
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