

General made himself memorable

THE BRIDGE CROWD



WOODY BOYD

In a lifetime, one has been tremendously benefited if he or she makes friends with a few unusually gifted people. I have enjoyed that opportunity. Let me tell you about one such friend because he was a remarkable person and I was truly fortunate to have experienced such a wonderful encounter.

Gen. Constantine Platias was Greece's first air corps general. Following World War II, in which he distinguished himself against the Nazi invaders on many illustrious occasions, he represented his country as Greece's first United Nations ambassador.

Shortly after his move to New York City, an invitation to join the Regency Whist Club was extended, as the general's love for card games, especially his fondness for bridge and those who played it, was intense. In no time, it was apparent to everyone that his gifts were many. His gentleness was extraordinary, yet you knew at a glance this was a man of character and tremendous strength, even though stored in a physique just over five feet in size. I knew no one who could match his smile and charm. His humility and kindness allowed him no enemy anyone could remember.

Today, the annual Platias Memorial Bridge Tournament is one of the club's two most eminent events.

Costa, an enduring nickname the general acquired ages ago, could hold his own in the world's strongest stake games. His bidding and play were imaginative and bold. He never let the right bid get in the way of a speculative venture if he believed an opportunity was at hand.

Certainly there were only a few who could match his deceptiveness at the table. When he tired of stake play in New York, he traveled east to Monte Carlo or west to the glittering lights of Las Vegas and busied himself at the tables of unscrupulous gamblers. Some of the stories that came from those ventures at fortune and chance are splendid and legendary.

Once he invited five of his best friends, who just happened to be excellent players, to Montreal as his guests for a four-day challenge match against that city's finest. For 96 unbelievably exhausting hours, the marathon continued in a luxurious series of suites at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel with no let-up for feasting or sleep. On another occasion, he chartered a magnificent yacht, which sailed the Aegean Sea with a dozen of his favorite bridge-playing pals for 10 days of play.

There was a memorable evening some 20 years ago, in which nine of us were his guests at an elegant, but delicate dinner party at the Regency Whist, followed by an into-the-daylight-hours game. Here is a memorable hand from the fun-drenched evening that portrays Costa's shrewdness. This hand came late, so it was natural that only the fittest

participants were still playing at a level equal to their greatest capabilities, but the general never intentionally took advantage of one's hard-evening habits.

N	E	Costa	W
1♥	DBL	2♠	DBL
3♥	DBL	3♠	DBL
4♥	—	5♠	DBL
6♥	DBL	5♠	DBL
		Passed Out	

Both Vulnerable	♠ 54	♠ A Q 7 5 3 2	♠ A Q 10 6 2
	♥ K 6	♥ K 6	♥ A 10 9 3 2
	♦ A	♦ A	♦ K J 2
	♣ A 9 8 7	♣ A 9 8 7 5 4	♣ A 9 8 7 5 4
	♣ Q J 8 7 5 4		
	♣ 9 7 5		

♠ 54	♠ A Q 7 5 3 2	♠ A Q 10 6 2
♥ K 6	♥ K 6	♥ A 10 9 3 2
♦ A	♦ A	♦ K J 2
♣ A 9 8 7	♣ A 9 8 7 5 4	♣ A 9 8 7 5 4
♣ Q J 8 7 5 4		
♣ 9 7 5		

If you had been sitting East, on lead in this intimidating high-stake drama, holding cards that could probably beat your adversary's contract, what card would you put in play? East knew Costa was operating with his series of deceptive bids, but which, if any, were trustworthy and for whose ears to reason? Could South's shape be 0-6-0-7? Certainly not likely, but which cue bid was true? After a prolonged council with the wizardly gods of bridge, East laid down a loser... the diamond ace and a plus 1860 for N/S.

You could have heard a snowflake fall. The stunned silence was finally interrupted with Costa's quiet confidence... "The alternative, gentlemen, is almost as displeasing, as you can't make six spades. I'll double, lead a club and beat you for 800."

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.

FASHION CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUG. 20

At Valentino

Sweaters, T-shirts and sweats, size 1X to 7X, by Laine Designs; blazers and coats by Sharon Phillips Designs, and coats and jackets by Dero Leathers 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 21, at Valentino, Fuller Figure Boutique, Applegate Square on Northwestern Highway between 12 and 13 Mile roads in Southfield.

Giorgio Armani

Giorgio Armani trunk show, with representative visit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and informal modeling 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Couture, Level Three, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. CK Selling Day, with representative visit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Career, Level Two.

SATURDAY, AUG. 21

Fall '93 collection of Ghost, informally modeled noon to 4 p.m., at Rox & Sherm in Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township.

Neiman Marcus

Zegna trunk show, with representative visit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Men's Clothing, Level One, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. "Pigtails and Froggies," children's back-to-school fashion show, at 11:30 a.m. in Children's World, Level Two.

TUESDAY, AUG. 24

Oscar de la Renta

Oscar de la Renta autumn '93 collection with special representative Boaz Mazor, with informal modeling 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 24, and Thursday, Aug. 26, in Designer Salon, second floor, at Saks Fifth Avenue at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

Ellen Tracy

Ellen Tracy stock show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with representative visit, in Career, Level Two, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Show was originally scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Patricia Dennis

Patricia Dennis trunk show, with representative visit 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and informal modeling 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Wednesday, Aug. 25, in Couture, Level Three, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25

Fashion event

Career "It's All About You" event, with Brenda Moser, including reception at 6 p.m., fashion presentation at 6:30 and shopping 7-9 p.m. in Career, Level One, at Neiman Marcus at the Somerset Collection in Troy. Call 643-3300 for reservations. Event was originally scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 19.

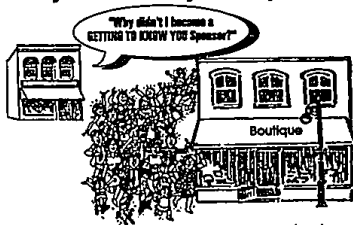
Off the Cuff wants your suggestions

Got a suggestion for an individual The Eccentric can highlight in Off the Cuff, an occasional feature that focuses on ordinary people with extraordinary flair for fashion? If you know an Observer

& Eccentric area resident — man, woman or child — with a distinctive clothing sense, be it classic, trendy, homespun or outrageous, give us a call at 644-1100, Ext. 243.

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Frank H. Boos Gallery

AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

AUCTION featuring: property belonging to the Estate of Ruth E. Harvey, Grosse Pointe, MI; the Estate of Theodora Macdonald Tishoff, Birmingham, MI; a group of Marshall Fredericks bronzes; a 19th c. Meiji Satsuma monkey vase; a large selection of estate jewelry; Steinway grand piano; a 1987 560 SEC and a 1991 560 SEL Mercedes Benz; silver plated fireplace tools; furniture; Oriental carpets; lighting devices; silver; china; crystal; graphics; paintings by Valentin Aleksandrovich Serov, J. Peck, Ferdinand Roybet, Donald Parry, Michael Lecha, James Chastain, John Eger, Jack Twinkler, Grace Hartigan, Daubigny, Culver, Bacon, Pieler, Baron Ernst von Maydell, R. Hopkin and many more.

Preview

Monday, August 23, 12 noon-8 p.m.
Tuesday, August 24, 12 noon-8 p.m.
Wednesday, August 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Auction

Thursday, August 26, 6 p.m.
Friday, August 27, 6 p.m.



19th C. Meiji Period
Satsuma Vase, 21" high



Marshall Fredericks, (American, b. 1908)
bronze, "Baby Balcony (self-portrait)",
11" h., signed

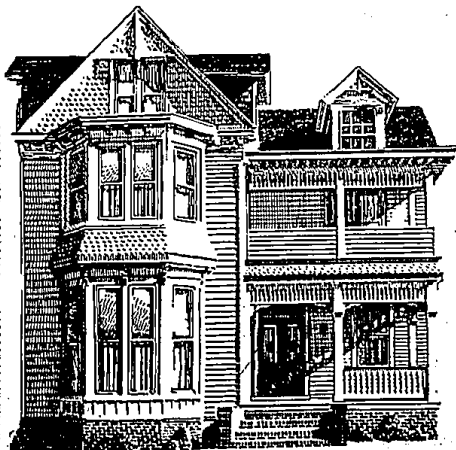
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(The Woodard Furniture Company)
on the premises in Grosse Pointe, MI
Saturday and Sunday, October 2nd and 3rd
preceded by three days of preview

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