



A Column for Card Players and Question Box

Conducted by Hoyle, Jr.

Address questions about any game to Hoyle, Jr., The Observer. Answers will be mailed promptly. No questions answered unless signed with name and address.

AUCTION BRIDGE—No. 25.

"The Golden Gate of Opportunity" is always open to him who plays.

General rules are of vital importance to the novice in Auction, and very valuable to the expert. They may be classified as Always and Never.

ALWAYS

know the state of the score, for the declaration will be greatly influenced by what is needed to make game or possibly rubber.

risk when any make will give advantage to the game or rubber.

return your partner's original lead at a No-trump unless you hold a long established suit of your own.

give your partner the highest card of his suit if you hold four or less; lowest card if you have more than four, to unblock.

lead an Ace in a trump (or suit) declaration unless you hold a tenace, for you generally make a trick and prevent adversaries from making a grand slam. After you have seen dummy's cards, you may select your next lead more intelligently.

whether declarer or opponent, lead trumps to stop a cross ruff.

when declarer, make good cards in both your own and dummy's hand in a No-trump before you give up the lead.

set up the suits you hold in a No-trump declaration by finesses or under-play before giving up all re-entries.

note in your mind the honor holding in dummy's hand when his cards are first exposed or laid on the table.

plan the campaign of play when dummy's hand is exposed before you make a single play.

after sorting your cards into suits, and arranging the suits in the order of value, with the highest cards to the left for convenience in placing them on the table should you be dummy, keep your eyes and attention away from your hand, except when you are about to bid or play. Never lose sight of the cards as they fall on the table, as the board is the battlefield.

start by keeping count of the number and size of the cards still to be played of the trump suit, then add your own longest suit, and gradually learn to keep tab of all four suits. By keeping track of the cards still to come, rather than those that have been played the number of cards to be kept in mind gradually diminishes, as there are four cards less to remember after each trick is completed.

lead through dummy's strong suit when dummy is at your left.

lead to dummy's weak suit when he is at your right, even though it be the trump suit.

play against dummy, your known enemy, at every trick.

lead trumps if declarer does not.

force the declarer to trump.

unblock your partner's suit.

block your opponent's suit.

take a trick as cheaply as possible.

make your winning cards early against a declared trump.

if second hand, always cover an honor with an honor.

count the cards in your hand.

NEVER

count on ruffing with a singleton trump.

or rarely ever, open from a ten-ace suit or a long weak suit in a trump declaration.

lead a short suit when you hold a suit containing two or more touching honors.

carry home Aces (in other words, lead them).

unless you are declarer, play a false card—that is, never play a higher card to a lead when you hold a lower card of the same suit.

be deceived by the declarer's play. He may "false card."

be in a hurry to lead out your Aces against a No-trump.

finesse in your partner's suit.

finesse when holding nine cards of the suit in the two hands.

lead a suit that one opponent can trump and the other discard on.

spoil a sure Spade or Heart make for a doubtful No-trump.

false card and deceive your partner.

raise your partner's bid in the same suit unless you can give him at least two sure tricks and probably more.

bid No-trump unless you can stop the suit in which your adversary has bid.

allow the opponents to make a discard, as a discard or chance to throw away trash generally strengthens a hand.

To sum up the whole, this clever verse is most appropriate:

"To brag little, to show well,
To crow gently, if in luck,
To pay up, to own up,
And shut up if beaten,
Are the virtues of a sport."

Questions and Answers.

Q. Why are two decks of cards generally used at a time in a game of Auction?

A. Two decks are generally used because it saves time. One deck, called the still deck, is shuffled while the other is being dealt.

Q. What cards are considered supporting cards?

A. A card led intending to strengthen partner's holding, and giving him a finesse. The favorite supporting cards are Jack, Ten, and often an unguarded Queen, which comes under the always rule of leading the highest of four or less to partner's known suit.

The Bookworm

If you are in search of home plans the County Library has a brand new collection of some very attractive plans for new bungalows and small houses. In this same connection the library also has some splendid books on interior decoration. Nord's "Art of Home Decoration" is our most recent addition. Each chapter is devoted to a room and one is conducted from the front door to the attic. Eberlein's "Practical Book on Interior Decoration" is the most complete on the subject and Frohne's "Color Schemes for the Home" is exceedingly attractive. Dyer's "Handbook of Furniture Styles" is a clear, concise guide to the more important historic styles.

In this same connection, if you are planning to build, Luckless's "Lighting the Home" deserves careful consideration. It discusses various lighting systems very practically from the point of view of appearance and better still from that of ease for the eye. Then there are several small books and pamphlets on building the fireplace. One shows a simple method whereby the fireplace can be made to heat the whole room and not leave you to burn on one side and freeze on the other. Frederick's "Household Engineering" should also be consulted if millady wants to save her steps for it is most practical in its arrangement of work units.

New radio books! The radio phone has developed more swiftly than books on it have been published. We have received this week Sleeper's "Design Data" and his "Construction

of Radiophone Receivers" and will receive Lewis' "ABC of Vacuum Tubes" when it comes off the press. We have Edelman's "Experimental Wireless Stations." The last popular Science Monthly has a very good illustrated article on the subject.

Something New in the Line of Wireless

(By Associated Press)

GREENVILLE, Ala., Apr. 7.—While cleaning the boiler in a lumber concern at Chapman, near here, Thursday, E. Cooper and Bert Harrison, with a negro, "Soap" Monroe, who were inside it, heard a band playing "Dixie." Another tune also was heard, but the men were unable to ascertain what it was. The notes were distinct and audible, they say, coming from the metal smokestack.

The phenomenon is not understood generally, but it is supposed that the metal smokestack acted as a receiver, the guy wires being the antennae, and a wireless radio concert which was being sent out was received. No music required.

was being played in that vicinity. The negro, being of a superstitious character, could not grasp the situation and made a hasty getaway.

Catches One Coyote, Wants Bounty on 11

PORTLAND, Apr. 7.—When one coyote is captured and 11 coyote pelts are turned in, how many bounties is the hunter entitled to?

That is what Stanley G. Jewett, in charge of predatory animal work for the United States biological survey in Oregon, would like to have somebody tell him authoritatively.

Albert Petersen of Ukiah set a coyote trap a few days ago. When he went to visit it he found a female coyote and around her 10 baby coyotes, born after her incarceration. Petersen killed them all, then wrote Jewett to inquire how many bounties he was entitled to under the circumstances. Jewett confessed himself stumped and a ruling from Washington will be sent out.

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A HOME of your own, with a beautiful lawn and garden surrounding it, is all you need to make life worth while for your family. A home where you can offer your wife and children the opportunity to enjoy life without restrictions—do as they desire—act as they wish, is something you owe them. Make up your mind this very day to get out of the wasteful rut of endless rent paying.

It isn't a question of whether you can afford to build this spring. It's a question whether you can afford not to.

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