

Blackwood on Bridge—

Sometimes It Pays To Jettison an Ace

One South Player Has Foresight To Get Himself Ready to Ruff High

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

THROW YOUR ace away!... Now wait a minute. Don't run for the nearest bridge game and start pitching away your high cards to test out this new theory. Better read a little farther and find out what I'm driving at.

Actually what I'm trying to do is shock you out of playing in a "groove" or a habit pattern—shock you out of the subconscious belief that an ace is always a winner, that an ace should never be discarded.

Today's hand was played in a twelve-table duplicate. At nine tables the final contract was five clubs and although that bid is low-cold, only two declarers made it. And one of those played it wrong, scoring game only because the defense slipped.

Gets Rid of Heart Ace

At all of the nine tables West opened the singleton ten of hearts. Eight South players ducked in dummy and won with the ace in the closed hand. A high club was led and East won and returned a heart which West trumped. A lead to East's ace of diamonds now set the contract.

One of these eight declarers played as described above but East, after winning the ace of clubs, laid down the ace and another diamond instead of giving his partner a heart ruff.

One lone South player won the first trick with the king of hearts on the board. After looking the situation over briefly, he called for the ace of spades on which he got rid of his own heart ace.

Then he led a trump and East won and returned a heart. But South trumped with the king of clubs, led another round of clubs and spread the hand, conceding only the ace of diamonds.

Several of the losing South players said they suspected a ruff by West and that was why they

East-West vulnerable North dealer Duplicate bridge

NOETH S-A 3 3 H-E 9 5 5 D-2 10 2 C-2 7 8

WEST EAST S-Q 10 7 6 5 3 S-K 6 4 3 H-10 H-Q J 8 7 6 4 D-9 8 4 3 D-A 6 C-4 2 C-A

SOUTH S-None H-A 2 D-K J 7 5 C-K Q J 10 8 5 2

The bidding: N E S W Pass 1 H 5 0 Pass 2 N T Pass 5 0 All Pass

tried to take out the opposing trumps at once. "I led trumps as quickly as I could," each of them said plaintively.

You see? That's the old habit pattern talking. Usually it is best to get the trumps out quickly when there is danger of an adverse ruff. But this hand was different. It required a special treatment. It required a simple safety measure before the opponents were permitted to gain the lead.

Send questions on bridge to Mr. Blackwood, The Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis 6.

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ANNE CABOT The Indianapolis Times 530 S. Wells St. Chicago 7, Ill. No. 5961 Price 20c

Democratic Women To Meet Wednesday

The 19th Ward Democratic Women's Club will meet Wednesday night in the club headquarters, 710 1/2 N. Warman Ave. Hostesses for the social meeting will be Mesdames Victor Foreman, John Moore, William Spaulding, Ada Weissenberger and members of the fifth precinct.

Meeting Arranged

The Cruzan Parliamentary Club I will meet at 1 p. m. Tuesday in the Meridian Room, Colonial Furniture Co. Mesdames W. T. Dally, Sheldon Cox and W. C. Freund will be in charge of the discussion. Mrs. Jacob Harden will preside at the business session when officers will be elected.



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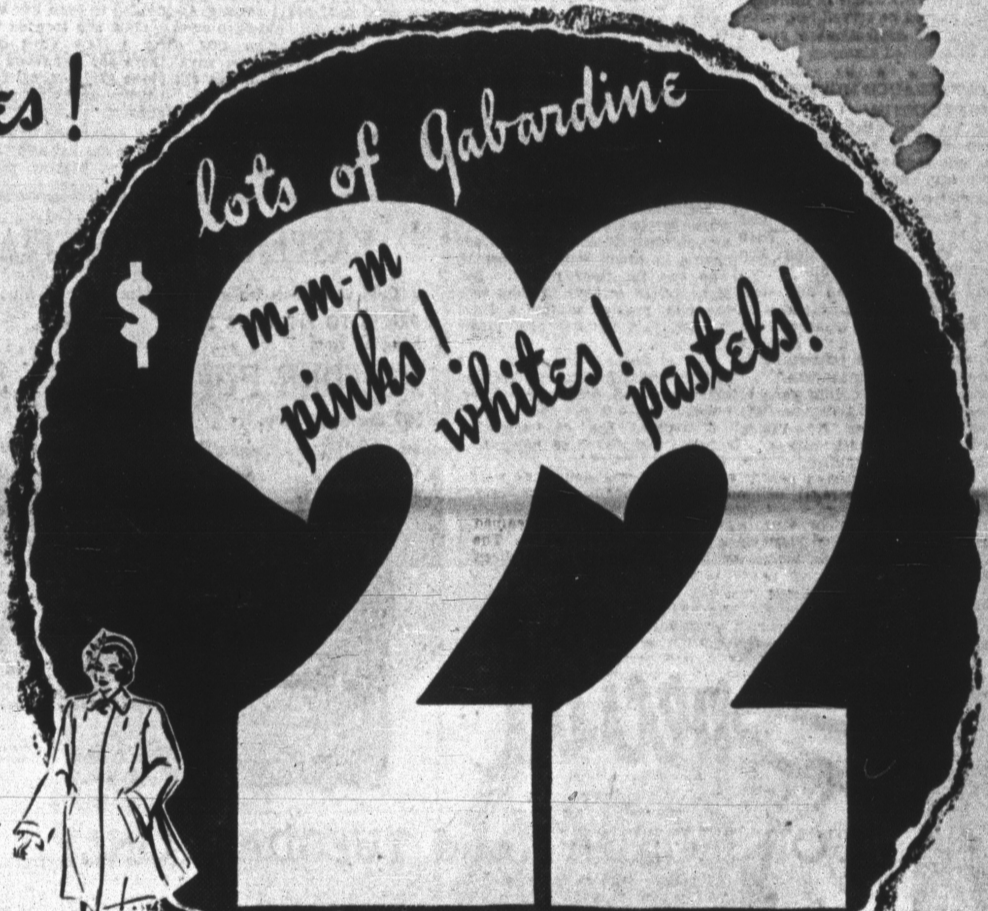
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