

**Contract Bridge**

By Josephine Culbertson  
THE BLACKWOOD CONVENTION

It is safe to say that 98 out of every 100 American players use the Blackwood Convention for slam bidding—and it is equally safe to say that less than two players out of every 98 have full knowledge of the convention. Let's look at a case:

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

♠ 10 7  
 ♥ Q J 6  
 ♦ J 5  
 ♣ K J 9 8 4

♠ J 8 4 3  
 ♥ 9 5  
 ♦ 8 7 6  
 ♣ 4 2

♠ N  
 ♥ W  
 ♦ E  
 ♣ S

♠ A K 10 8 7 3 2  
 ♥ K 9  
 ♦ A Q 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	1♥	2♣	Pass
2♦	3♦	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass
7♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

North and South were feeling very happy about their grand slam contract—until West opened the ace of diamonds! Then their happiness waned.

North was unaware of the fact, of course, but he committed a major error when he responded to the Blackwood with five diamonds, announcing one ace. His correct call was five clubs.

The "catch" in the matter is this: after one partner has made a cue bid of the opponent's suit, the responder to the Blackwood Convention must not count the ace of that suit if he happens to hold it. The reason is obvious—the ace

**BURGESS BEDTIME STORIES**

By Thornton W. Burgess

**THE SILLY DISPUTE**  
A silly thing it is to fight  
For that to which none has a right.  
—Old Mother Nature.

Reddy Fox had found the place in the Green Forest where four Grouse were trapped under the crust that covered the deep snow everywhere. Now he sat down trying to think of some way of catching one or more of those young Grouse. He was very, very hungry. He was so hungry that he was almost starving. These were hard times. The snow and ice had made hunting not only difficult, but almost useless. Now to have a wonderful dinner right under his very feet, and be unable to get it was almost more than he could bear. If only he could break that crust! But he couldn't. He couldn't break it, and he couldn't dig his way through it. Those Grouse were as safe from him as if they were in the top of the tallest tree.

He was still trying to think of something he might do to get at those young birds, when who may be (and usually is) nothing but "duplication" of the cue-bidder's void. This hand is a case in point. The spade ace in North's hand was worth precisely nothing to South, whereas the diamond ace—which North certainly could have held instead—would have made the grand slam a 100 to 1 chance.

There are only a few ramifications to the Blackwood, but it is better for a player to dispense with the convention entirely rather than apply it imperfectly. South didn't need any help from North (after the latter's club bid and heart raise) to reach a small slam, but the five-diamond call, which had to show the diamond ace if North was bidding correctly, was far too much help in the wrong direction!

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should come along but his cousin, Gray Fox. Now Reddy and his cousin are not on the best of terms. Cousins should love each other, of course. But Reddy and Gray Fox didn't love each other a bit.

Gray Fox stopped a short distance away, and showed his teeth. He growled. Reddy did the same thing. They were very likely to do that whenever they met. It wasn't nice. Of course not. It never is nice when people try to pick a quarrel.

After a little growling, each telling the other what he thought of him, they were quiet for a while. It was then that the tapping sound under the crust began again. Reddy had heard it when he first arrived there. Now, Gray Fox heard it. Just as Reddy had known what it meant, Gray Fox knew.

"So, that is what you are hanging around here for," snarled Gray Fox.

"Yes!" snarled Reddy, "and the sooner you get away from here, the better. Those Grouse down under the snow belong to me."

"Who says so?" growled Gray Fox. "I do!" snarled Reddy. "I found them first!" Gray Fox grinned. It was a sly grin. "You might have found them, but you haven't got them," said he. "I have found them too, now. They are just as much mine, as yours."

"Just try and get them!" snarled Reddy. "If you think they are yours, just try and get them!" It was a perfectly silly quarrel. Those four grouse, prisoners under the icy crust, didn't belong to anybody. They never would belong to anybody unless they were caught. As things were now, Reddy Fox could not lay a paw on one of them. Neither could his cousin, Gray Fox. Yet they were growling and snarling at each other, and quarreling and threatening to fight, just as if one was trying to take something that belonged to the other.

It was a silly dispute. Many quarrels are just as silly. Now, the Grouse were keeping still. Perhaps they suspected the hungry hunters above them. Perhaps they were too tired and discouraged to peck any longer.

**DUTCH SCIENTIST**  
TEHRAN, Iran (CP) — Prof. J. C. L. Defize, industrial adviser to the Indonesian government, has arrived to teach at the new faculty of oil sciences here on a one-year mission under auspices of the United Nations educational, scientific and cultural organization.

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**DAILY CROSSWORD**

- ACROSS**
- Channel marker
  - Molded mass of bread
  - A maid servant (Fr.)
  - Eskimo dwelling
  - Wading bird
  - Plait
  - Also
  - Part of "to be"
  - Behold!
  - Capital (Ga.)
  - Varying weight (Ind.)
  - Ornamental garden plant
  - Tablets
  - Island (Aegean Sea)
  - Moccasin-like shoe
  - Founder of the Pennsylvania colony
  - Detestation
  - Ovum
  - Deeply thoughtful
  - Affirmative vote (var.)
  - Animal's foot
  - Transgress
  - European country
  - Name
  - Aim (Scott.)
  - Spoken examinations
  - Observes
  - Great quantity

- DOWN**
- Capital of "nisse," a friendly goblin
  - Official in charge of sacred vessels
  - Careless!
  - Kitchen utensil
  - Plural of "pea"
  - The country of native pyramids (Goss.)
  - Chop
  - Wickedly (Eng.)
  - Sand dune
  - Window, sections
  - Heap
  - Devoured
  - Male cat
  - Man's name

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. TIDE  
2. BREAD  
3. MAID  
4. IGLOO  
5. HERON  
6. BRAID  
7. ALSO  
8. BE  
9. BEHOLD!  
10. ATLANTA  
11. VARYING  
12. ORNAMENTAL  
13. TABLETS  
14. ISLAND  
15. MOCCASIN  
16. FOUNDER  
17. DETESTATION  
18. OVUM  
19. DEEPLY  
20. AFFIRMATIVE  
21. ANIMAL'S  
22. TRANSGRESS  
23. EUROPEAN  
24. NAME  
25. AIM  
26. SPEAKING  
27. OBSERVES  
28. QUANTITY

**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it:**  
A X Y D L B A A X R  
I S L O N G F E L L O W

One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

A Cryptogram Quotation

C Y F P D M L Q D P D M L G K C I L G . Z X  
Z H K K P N L G P P M P D X X - D C I .

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL THE WIDE WORLD IS LITTLE ELSE IN NATURE, BUT PARASITES, OR SUB-PARASITES—JONSON.

Henry

Grandma

Muggs and Skeeter

Etta Kett

Tilly The Toiler

Mickey Mouse

Bringing Up Fatler

By Fran Striker Secret Agent X9

By Ham Fisher L'il Abner

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