

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1990

Bridge

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A mother's advice, the optimism of youth and two contracts that resulted (one much later).

Four years ago a young woman arrived in Santa Cruz, Calif., to begin a doctoral course in mathematics and promptly called her mother for advice.

Daughter: "I don't know anyone here. What shall I do until term starts?"

Mother: "You go to the nearest bridge club and play."

Daughter: "But I've forgotten how."

Mother: "I'll tell you. . ."

Thus began a two-hour telephone lesson. The following week the daughter made a nervous first appearance at the San Jose Bridge Club. She was vastly younger than almost all the other contestants, except for a young Air Force officer who promptly asked her to play the following week. He sat North and she sat South on the diagramed deal, in which he demonstrated the optimism of youth.

Strong Temptation

The string of spade bids by North-South perhaps led their opponents to believe that a misunderstanding was coming. The five-diamond bid hit the target, but North, reluctant to play five of a minor at match-points, could not resist the temptation to continue. His eventual redouble was bravado that was unlikely to affect the score.

East's double was significant, but his partner failed to recognize the Lightner request for an unusual lead. He should have taken a guess between hearts and clubs, with little to guide him, but selected a pedestrian spade.

The declarer won in dummy, took two club winners discarding a heart, and surrendered a heart to East. As that player could not return a trump,

NORTH

♠ —
♥ J 8 7 6
♦ K 10 7 4
♣ A K 8 6 3

WEST

♠ J 8 7 3
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 6 3 2
♣ 9 4 2

EAST (D)

♠ A 10 9 5 4
♥ A K 9 5
♦ —
♣ Q J 10 5

SOUTH

♠ K Q 6 2
♥ Q 3
♦ A Q J 9 8 5
♣ 7

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♠
Dbl.	3 ♠	Dbl.	4 ♠
Dbl.	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Dbl.	Pass	Pass	Redble.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West led the spade three.

the cross-ruff brought home the redoubled slam.

South had prevailed because West could not hit on a red-suit lead, and because East did not have a trump to play at the fourth trick. Good fortune was clearly destined to smile on the North-South partnership and it did: two days ago, and 3,000 miles to the east in Elizabethtown, N.Y., Bobette Hayden and Todd Thorsen were married.