Contract Bridge

By Easley Blackwood

Mr. Champion was discussing another deal from the team-of-four match between his team and a team composed of Messrs. North, South, East and West of the Uptown Club.

NORTH.
(Mr. North)
♠ 7 6 2
♡ 10 8 6 5 2
◇ 5
♣ A 10 6 3

WEST. (Mrs. Keen)
♠ 8 4 3
♡ A K J
◇ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 8 4

EAST. (Mr. Champion)
♠ K J 9 5
♡ 9 7
◇ A K Q J 9
♣ K 7

SOUTH.
(Mr. South)
♠ A Q 10
♡ Q 4 3
◇ 10 3
♣ Q J 9 5 2

The bidding:

East.	South.	West.	North.
1 diamond	Pass	1 heart	Pass
1 spade	Pass	2 diamonds	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

"There were several points of interest in this hand," he said pompously. "For example, look at Mrs. Keen's first bid of one heart on a three-card suit.

"I think it was a very fine, thoughtful bid. She knew I wouldn't insist on hearts unless I had four of them. And if I didn't insist, she knew there was always safety in diamonds, since she had five cards in that suit."

Another Point.

"Another point," Mr. Champion continued. "Look at Mr. South's refusal to overcall with a two-club bid. True, he wouldn't have fared badly at that contract on this particular deal—but only because Mr. North happened to have excellent club support and a singleton.

"Anyway, a two-club overcall on this hand would have been atrocious. Muzzy had the South hand at the other table. I hope he didn't bid two clubs."

"He did, though," commented Mr. Muzzy.

Mr. Champion looked disgusted. Then he went on. "The next point of interest was Mr. South's opening lead. From his club holding, should he lead the queen or fourth highest?

"There is a new school which recommends fourth highest, but I can absolutely prove that the proper lead is still the queen. Of course, on this hand it made no difference, as his partner had the ace and ten.

Mr. Dale Laughed.

"Well, how did you come out?" asked Mr. Dale.

"I won the second club trick with the king," Mr. Champion replied, "led a heart to the ace, then cashed five diamond tricks, watching the discards very carefully. Finally, I took the heart finesse and made an easy nine tricks. What did you and Muzzy do with the North-South cards?"

Mr. Dale laughed. "What you call your 'points of interest,'" he said, "were stodgy compared to the flash when we played the hand. We defended against three no-trump and beat it three tricks!"

Let Mr. Dale tell you in tomorrow's column how this sensational result was accomplished.

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Word Game

Find 41 or more words in **SPISSITUDE**, meaning, "density." Average is 37; limit, 30 minutes.

Rules—Words must be of four or more letters. Words which acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats," "cats," are not used. Only one form of a word is used. Proper names are not used. A list will be published tomorrow.

Answer to CHARGING.
caging, caring, cairn, chair, chain, char, chin, china, chagrin, cigar, crag, hair, hang, aching, aging, agrin, arching, raging, racing, rain, ranch, ring, rich, gain, gang, grain, grin, gracing, inch, nigh.

EMMY LOU

—By Marty Links

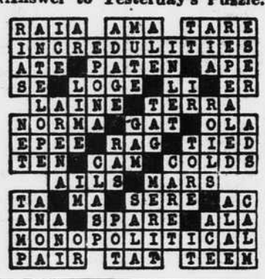
"Then again what's the matter with blind dates? I've met some of my best fiances that way."

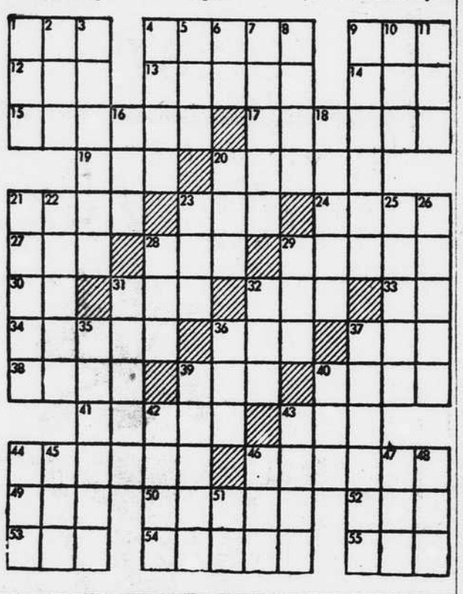
CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

HORIZONTAL.
1 Obtained
4 A small fragment
9 Topaz humming bird
12 Part of circle
13 Card drawn after the top card in faro
14 Narrow inlet
15 Goober
17 Scoundrel
19 Female ruff
20 ----, American playwright
21 Woody plant
23 River island
24 Remainder
27 To free of
28 Press for payment
29 Honorary Turkish title
30 Inspector General (abbr.)
31 Noah's boat
32 Total
33 Correlative of either
34 Domineering
36 Marsh
37 Cause to shake
38 Man's name
39 Occupied a seat
40 Month
41 V-shaped indentation
43 To peruse
44 Pleasantry
46 Ineffectual
49 To be indebted
50 Lowest point
52 Rowing implement
53 Spread for drying
54 A freshet
55 Gear

VERTICAL.
1 Chance
2 Form of "to be"
3 Frightened
4 The thread of a story
5 Decay
6 Pronoun
7 To deserve
8 Unruly child
9 Wickets in croquet
10 By way of
11 Indian mulberry
16 Signifying maiden name
18 To beat it
20 Part of fish
21 Division of clan
22 Stiffness
23 Arctic bird
25 Having little depth
26 Abide
28 Arid
29 Kind of dog
31 Famous racehorse in England
32 Drunkard
35 Transgressed
36 Exclamation of disgust
37 Lower in rank
39 Small detached piece
40 An iota
42 Number (pl.)
43 Heal
44 Kind of fly
45 Reverential fear
46 Prepared
47 Burmese native
48 Unit of energy
51 The ambary

(Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle.)





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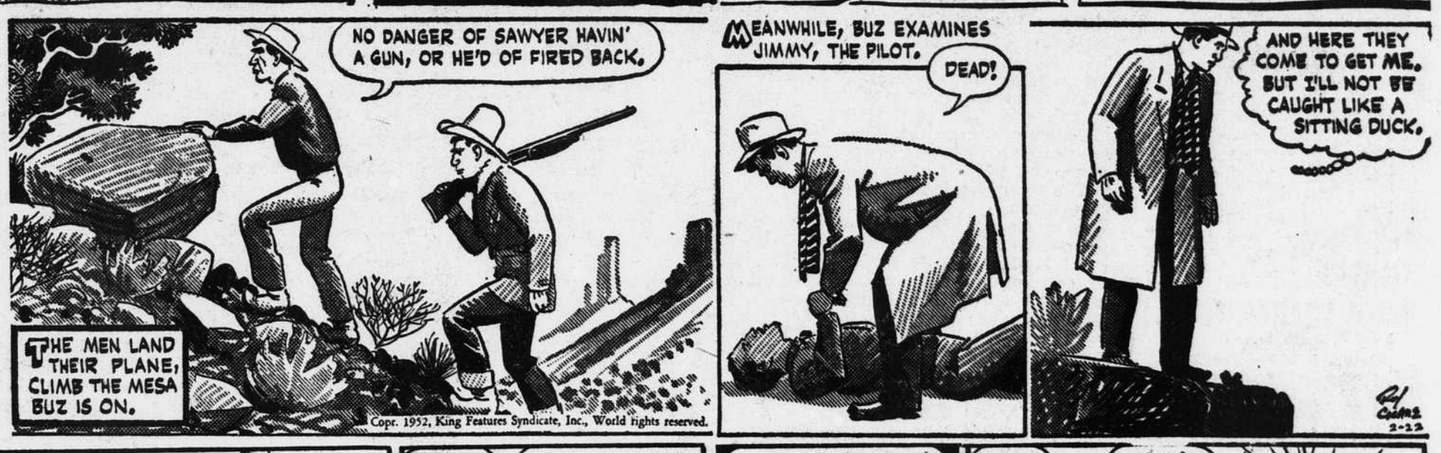

JACKSON TWINS

BEETLE BAILEY

THE TOODLES

THE CISCO KID

MUTT AND JEFF

Uncle Ray's Corner

By Ramon Coffman

The other day a 9-year-old girl asked me this question:

"Why do we have leap years?"

With Leap Year's Day close at hand, many other persons probably are wondering about the same point.

The answer, in short, is that we must have leap years to keep our calendar from getting out of line.

A year is the time it takes the earth to make a complete trip around the sun. This is 365 days and almost one-fourth of a day extra.

Let us suppose that we forgot about that extra part of a day, and always had 365-day years. In a century, that would make a difference of about three and a half weeks. In eight centuries, the difference would amount to more than half a year! People then would have to celebrate Christmas in July!

In ancient times, some men knew that the true year has a bit more than 365 days. They used to correct their calendars from time to time, to keep the months in the proper season.

Julius Caesar, ruler of the ancient Romans, ordered a calendar to be followed with every fourth year having an extra day. After that, people spoke about the "Julian Calendar."

Everything would have gone along fine except for this fact: the true year has just a little less than one-fourth of a day extra. That small difference added up to 10 days during the 16 centuries after Caesar. Two Italian scientists—Lilius and Clavius—did a great deal of work to figure out a better calendar, and this was adopted. The new plan was named the Gregorian calendar because it was approved, and ordered inside a certain area, by Pope Gregory XIII.

The Gregorian calendar has an extra day once in four years, except that it is left out during some of the "century years." When the new calendar was adopted in Italy, people went to sleep in the evening of what they called the fourth day of October, and woke up on what was called the fifteenth day of October! This may sound as though they slept for 10 and a half days, but the trouble came from "losing" 10 calendar days.

Take My Word for It

By Frank Colby

Spokane: A speaker recently made this statement: "A person under the influence of marijuana doesn't have full control of his facilities." He meant faculties, didn't he?—P. W.

Answer: I don't know; very likely he did, although I can understand that a person without full control of his FACULTIES (physical capabilities of the human body) might not be able to use his FACILITIES (anything used to make a performance easy).

Monrovia: Please tell me the correct pronunciation of pianist. I always say PEE-uh-nist. Right?—G. C.

Answer: In British and American usage the suffix -ist, designates "a player on," and does not change the accent of the word designating the musical instrument, as these word pairs will show: cello, cellist; clarinet, clarinetist; bassoon, bassoonist; flute, flutist; harp, harpist, and so on right through the list of instruments ending with xylophone, xylophonist.

Therefore the word "PEE-uh-nist" can only describe a musician who plays on a "Pee-uh-noe," which is worse than nonsense. No one can advance a sane reason why the word pianist should depart from the logical and traditional way of pronouncing the -ist words of the musical family.

I should no more think of saying "PEE-uh-nist" than I should say "BASS-uh-nist" for bassoonist, "TROM-buh-nist" for trombonist, or "CLAR-i-nuh-tist" for clarinetist.

This column strnogly recommends that the word pianist be given the correct and traditional American pronunciation: pee-AN-ist.

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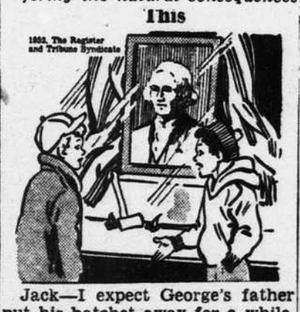
Points for Parents

—By Edyth Thomas Wallace

The cherry tree story should not be used to teach children that acknowledging misbehavior always exempts us from suffering the natural consequences of our acts.

This



Jack—I expect George's father put his hatchet away for a while, even if he did tell the truth. That's what my dad would have done.

Not This

Dick—George Washington probably knew his father would not whip him if he fessed up he cut down the tree. I work that on my folks, too.

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