

Charlie Brown Now Back In His Groundhog Habitat

● **WHETHER OR NOT** the groundhog saw its shadow on February 1st, isn't the most important aspect of Groundhog Day as far as the Art Klee family, 128 Confederation Street (9th Line), Glen Williams, is concerned. What interests them more, is just simply seeing the groundhog. Not just any groundhog, mind you, but a very special one — Charlie Brown by name.

Charlie Brown became a delightful part of their lives over two years ago, and interested daughter Karen to the point where she made him the subject of an essay project for the Young Naturalists' Club of which she was a member. Now a student at Stewarttown Junior High School, Karen was attending Glen William Public School when she wrote that —

● **"ONE HOT DAY IN JUNE,** 1967, my mother was weeding her garden when she almost trod on a small brown object. I was walking home at the time from school when my mom hurried me to identify the creature. Bending over, I picked it up to have a closer look. A little investigation showed that it was a half-dead baby groundhog, and further investigation showed me that its left ear had either been cut, or bitten off. We carried it back to the house and began to place in front of it all the food that a groundhog would ever want. There was shredded apple, carrots, lettuce, celery, tomatoes and cucumber. He began to nibble on some tomatoes and cucumber, but turned his back to it and the rest of the food. We realized it could not eat solids yet, so we gave him some bread in warm milk, which he licked off our fingers.

"Later we made him a bed in a box which held a hot water bottle and several towels to keep him warm. He soon stretched with a funny yawn and went to sleep.

"**THAT AFTERNOON** my sister Edith and I searched among our toys and found a plastic baby bottle. We enlarged the hole in the nipple and into the bottle we poured some pablum and milk mixture. We spread a towel on the floor of the kitchen and let him stand on his hind legs and hold and feed from the bottle like a human baby. After that we sprinkled some water on him and named him Charlie Brown.

"**IN MANY WAYS HE** was like a human baby. He loved to be cuddled and have attention. If he didn't get his own way he would waddle away grumbling and waving his tail straight up in the air like a banner.

"We were afraid that cats we then owned would chase poor Charlie and our suspicions were confirmed, but in the opposite direction. Charlie chased the cats until the biggest cat Tiger, took refuge on top of the piano, and the smaller cat, Smokey, on the fireplace. Unfortunately for Smokey, it was not a hideaway for long. Charlie soon learned how to scramble up the hearth of the fireplace and claimed it for his empire. After this understanding, Charlie often went on the hearth to listen to Mom play the piano and doze off, rocking to the rhythm, or utter a piercing whistle.

"No tissue box was safe in our house. Charlie would climb up the arm of our couch and pull down the box he wanted and then took the tissues to store in his cave under the couch.

"One time, my sister was playing dolls and then left the doll clothes on the couch. When she came back, they were gone. She looked everywhere and finally found them under the couch formed into a nest which included the tissue boxes, a pair of Dad's socks and Charlie sleeping in the middle of it.

"Charlie had an old blanket which he used to tote with him all over the place. He wouldn't let us near it or wash it. Instead, he guarded it.

"Charlie had a sweet tooth

and doted on licorice and marshmallows. He especially liked marshmallows but had a tough time eating them because they always stuck to the roof of his mouth. He also developed a liking for beer, and Dad would leave a few drops of it in the bottle which Charlie guzzled happily.

"**WE THOUGHT IT WOULD** be nice if we could take Charlie out on a leash. We obtained a harness (we couldn't get him a collar because he had no neck and could squirm out of it) and altered it slightly to fit, and buckled it on, then took it with Charlie outside. Aside from stopping, flattening to the ground and refusing to go further, he acted quite gentlemanly. We decided to let him out of the harness to see what would happen. Charlie waddled so close to Dad that Dad had to spread his feet apart to let Charlie through.

"Charlie was getting mature, now and began to use his teeth on us more frequently. We decided to ask our veterinarian whether he would be able to give Charlie a rabies shot now that he was getting around.

The vet said that it would be wise to let him go, as he would not be able to hibernate in our house. We all agreed that this would be the best thing to do.

"**WE BEGAN TO LENGTHEN** Charlie's walks so that he might find a home for the winter. He did. An abandoned one, close to the house. At first he only spent a little time in his burrow but stayed gradually longer until one time he did not come back when we called him. This was in September and we knew he was getting ready to hibernate. The snow fell and he disappeared.

"The following spring he came out again and still recognized us. But towards the end of June he scurried off when he saw us coming and seldom came out of his burrow. We presumed he was a family man now.

"**AGAIN THE SNOW FELL** and this spring there is a groundhog who lives in Charlie's home, but we don't know if it is him. We watch through binoculars to see the place where the left ear should be.

Either the sunlight is wrong or the groundhog is turned in the wrong direction. If it is not Charlie, I know that Charlie had still time to live wild the way it was meant to be."

TAKING BREATHALYZER COURSE



CST. ARNIE VANCLIEF

A Georgetown police constable, Arnold Vanclief has just completed a two week course at the Ontario Provincial Police School in Toronto which will qualify him to operate a breathalyzer. Georgetown Police Department has announced they will be equipped to make breath checks of drivers suspected of being impaired, later this month.

Social & Personal

Mrs. Walter Peck, 35 Albert Street, has returned from a visit in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, with son Roy, his wife and family. During her stay there, she attended the wedding of her granddaughter, Christine Peck and Dennis Taylor, who will be living in Charlottetown, P.E.I. where he is on the university staff. They came west for their honeymoon and visited in town with Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Peck, Normandy Blvd. Roy is now senior engineering technologist for the province of Nova Scotia.

LET'S PLAY BRIDGE

BY BILL COATS

No trump contracts are supposed to be the most difficult contracts to play. This is why most bridge players prefer to play in suit contracts. At duplicate, however, the extra ten points difference for the first no trump trick acts like a magnet. It attracts duplicate players to no trump. At duplicate all that matters is that you get a better score than other players who hold the same cards. How much better doesn't matter so even ten points better can bring you a good result.

Last week at Acton Bridge Club the no trump bidders were brought to justice on a certain hand. Three pairs tried six 'no trump on a hand and all were defeated. One even managed to go down six tricks. One pair, however, bid a grand slam in spades and proceeded to make the contract. Here are the hands.

North deal with East-West vulnerable.

North		East	
S-K 10 9 2	H-Void	S-8 6 4	H-K 5 3 2
D-A K 9 8 7 3	C-J 4 3	D-10 6 5 4	D-J 2
		C-Q	C-9 7 6 5

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 D	Pass	3 C	Pass
3 D	Pass	3 S	Pass
4 S	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 D	Pass	6S or 7S	All Pass

Opening lead — 7 of hearts.

There are two bids worth commenting on. South's response of 3 clubs to north's opening bid is called a jump shift. It jumps one level of bidding and changes to another suit. It describes a hand of at least 18 high card points. You should never use it just to describe a suit that he bid strongly in.

I would probably bid only six spades myself since you should not bid seven on a finesse. The hand of opening bid strength.

The other unusual bid is North's reply of 6 diamonds to South's 4 no trump ace asking bid. Five diamonds shows one ace so what does six diamonds show. It shows one ace as well but it also shows a void suit. The void should be in hearts since South would not likely be a pair who bid seven spades, either dropped the queen of spades or took the finesse in the right direction. If the no trump bidders guess the spade queen, they too could make their contract but last week at the Acton Bridge Club, they were all wrong.

How did one go down six? After winning the heart king with his ace, he cashed the diamond queen and entered dummy with the spade king. Declarer took two high diamonds discarding a heart and a club. When diamonds failed to break he took the spade finesse. When the dust had cleared, he had lost one spade, one diamond, and five heart tricks.

One last point. Declarer should lose no club tricks. With three clubs in dummy, even if declarer plans to finesse clubs, he should play the ace or king first, just in case. This is one of those hands where the 'just in case' pays off.

BRIDGE CLUB

The flu epidemic had some effect of last week's meeting of Georgetown duplicate bridge club, when attendance dropped to thirteen tables.

Club director 'Duke' Wilson and his wife were both home ill. Associate director Bob Dickson of Erin, had just suffered a family bereavement when his mother died, so Harry Allen, a member of the club, who is also a director of a Brampton club, filled in.

North-South winners, Bill Hamilton, Mrs. Pat Williams; 2nd, Cam Sinclair, Mrs. Phyllis Campbell; 3rd, Mrs. Sue Sullivan, Bill Barbour; 4th, Jim Kall, W. Wandel.

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