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Outlook on Lifestyle

BRIDGE

James Jacoby

NORTH 3-30-87
♠ K 7 5
♥ 5 4
♦ A K 10 7 6 5
♣ 10 2

WEST
♠ J 9 6
♥ 9
♦ Q 3 2
♣ K J 9 8 6 4

EAST
♠ Q 8 3
♥ Q J 7 2
♦ J 4
♣ A Q 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A 10 4 2
♥ A K 10 8 6 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 7

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♠ 6

Stretching for game

By James Jacoby

Now why should South, with a minimum opening of 11 high-card points, accept a game invitation? For starters, South's hand has an attractive 4-6-2-1 shape. Furthermore, his 11 points are two aces and a king — the highest quality points. The final plus is that North's two-diamond response matched South's two little diamonds. If opener had held a single diamond and two small clubs, he would have passed the three-heart invitation like a shot.

With a spade lead, how should you play? Declarer saw that the game would be easy if both red suits split 3-2, and did not see any simple way to guard against any other distribution, so after playing low from dummy and winning East's spade queen with his ace, he played A-K of hearts. Now there was a problem. He cashed the diamond A-K and trumped a diamond as East discarded the club five. If he now led a heart and East was kind enough to cash both heart tricks before playing either clubs or a spade back, everything would be just fine. That was not going to happen. Since he needed to get rid of his club loser, declarer led to the king of spades and played a good diamond. East trumped in immediately and South shed his club. Now, because the spade were 3-3, declarer made his game contract.

Is there a lesson here? Only one. Instead of leading a low spade from a three-card holding, West would do better tabling a club at trick one. "Leading from longest and strongest" may be an old wives' saying, but usually it's the best approach.

MS marathon

The results for the 1987 Multiple Sclerosis Society's Read-a-thon have been tabulated. In Halton County, 2,567 students attending 30 different elementary schools, read 35,055 books, raising $52,771.88 for research and personal-family services.

Over 55,000 students across the province of Ontario have read more than 720,000 books to raise $1,135,000.00 in this program.

The students began the Read-a-thon program when a representative from the Multiple Sclerosis Society came to the school for an assembly presentation. Participating students from grades one to eight, then read as many books as they wished, obtaining pledges from family and friends.

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease of the Central Nervous System, which may cause loss of coordination, tremors, double vision, extreme fatigue, or even paralysis. M.S. usually strikes adults between the ages of 15 and 50, and for 50,000 Canadians, there is no known cause or cure.

Roses have long history as landscaping favorites

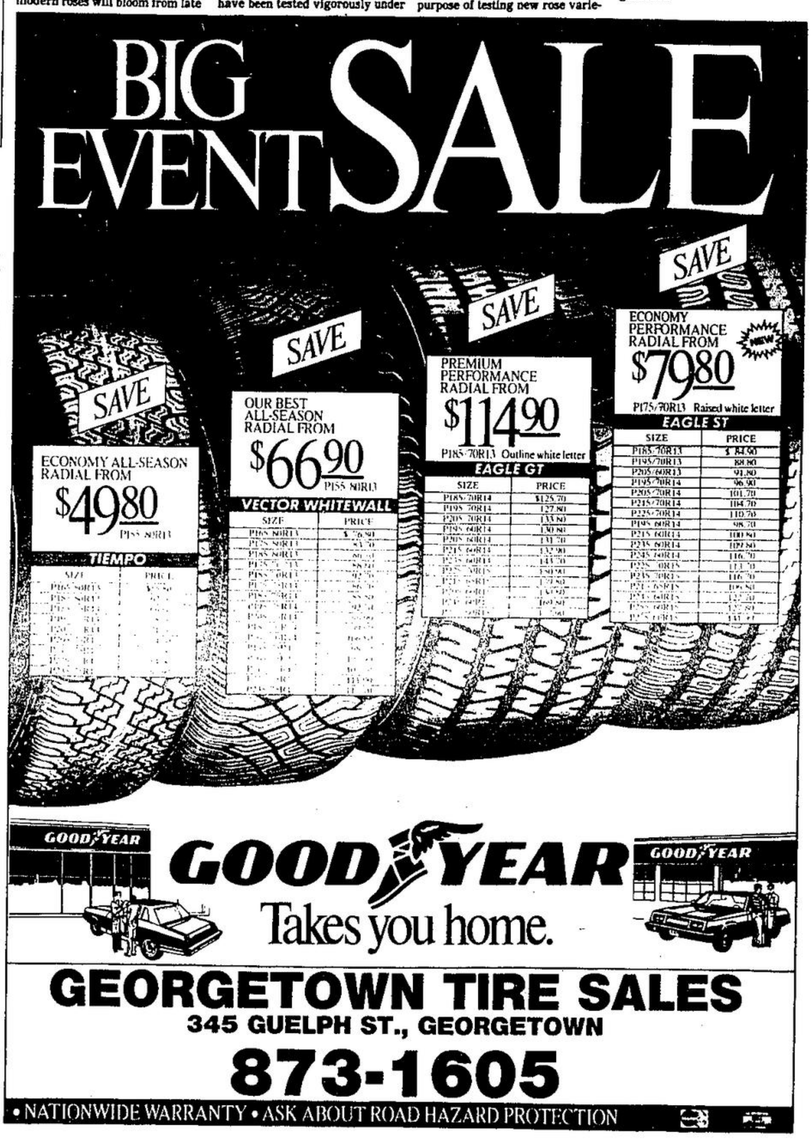
By Patrick Denton
Copley News Service

For more than 2,000 years roses have been grown and loved for their very special beauty and fragrance, and rare indeed is the home gardener without this plant in his home landscape.

Apart from the strong attraction of its classic beauty, the rose is a most satisfying plant to grow. Purchased and settled into good *soil in* an open, sunny spot, most modern roses will bloom from late spring into the autumn.

For most of us, the only really confusing aspect of growing roses lies in choosing from among the perplexing number of varieties available in local garden outlets during fall and spring.

One guideline in choosing a good, reliable rose for our gardens is to select from among the All-America Rose Selections award winners. These roses, while they are certainly not the only really excellent roses on the market, have been tested vigorously under normal home garden conditions in a wide range of climates and have been judged to be both superior and easy to grow.

In fact, the whole idea for selecting exceptional roses for awards was borne out of the confusing numbers of new varieties that began flooding the market in the early part of the century, when plant breeding began to accelerate. In 1938, rose producers and marketers decided to form a non-profit organization with the purpose of testing new rose varieties to determine which of them, if any, could be recommended to the public as exceptional.

Test gardens were established in a wide range of climates to represent the many growing situations over the North American continent, and a program of care for the roses to be tested was set up so that the plants would receive only the care that would normally be provided by a good — but not necessarily an expert — gardener.