

**To Visit Brother**

Eather Van Wagoner Tufty, Washington newspaper correspondent, has begun a two month tour

of Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. Her itinerary will include a stop in Munich where she will visit her brother, Murray D. Van Wagoner, now serving as governor of Bavaria.

Van Wagoner, former governor of Michigan and resident of Birmingham was appointed to his present post last year by General Lucius D. Clay.

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**BRIDGE AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE**

By James C. Gray

A report on the duplicate bridge tournament every Thursday evening at 7:45 o'clock. You and your partner are cordially invited to participate.

Nature boy came back to town—and went to town. "Nature Boy" Gray, sun-tanned, bubbling with energy, and all studied up on descriptive bids and lead-directing devices, overhauled the opposition in the north and south match of the tournament July 7.

Of course, I had some assistance from my partner, Ed Clarke. But only because the rules prevent the from bidding and playing two hands at once.

Melvin Small and Frequent Alden took second money in the north and south division. The east and west results: first, Elizabeth Guy and Gull Rothaus; second, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jolie.

Two announcements: (1) Since the Community House is closed during August, the final tournament of the season will be played July 28. The new season will begin September 8. (2) The world championship bridge matches for 1948 will be held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, July 31 to August 5. That would like to see.

In rubber bridge you gotta hold the cards to win. Not so in duplicate bridge. In duplicate, defense is vital as offense and many times careful treatment of a "dummy" hand provides just the extra points necessary for a top score in the tournament.

It is astonishing how often this point is overlooked. For example: the opponent on your right, the dealer, extracts his hand from the slot in the board, glances at it, "sighs" audibly and "passes". The "pass" is of no importance, but the "sigh" may cost him money. Herewith a defensive situation of interest:

**NORTH**  
WEST ? ? ? ? ? EAST S—Kxxx H—A J 10 x x D—xxx C—x

**SOUTH**  
S—None H—K x x D—A x x x x x C—x x x x

West was playing a four-spade contract. North opened the club ace and then switched to a low diamond. East, dummy, played low. South, cogitating in his own mind, took the trick. If I play my diamond ace that will make two. My partner may have a trump trick. As I declare that the heart finesse up to me, we crack the contract. I'd better take this trick and return a diamond for safety.

"But, wait a minute. What did that club ace mean? Singleton? Doubtless? Then west has a solid club suit and he won't need two heart tricks. But suppose my partner has the heart queen? And west has two small hearts? I can ruin the declarer's timing then by leading a heart right now. So when my partner gets in with a trump, we can cash a good heart."

South gathered in the trick with the club ace and led a low heart. West played low. And sure enough, North put up the queen. Declarer took the trick with the ace and led a low spade to the jack in his hand. North captured it with the queen. South who had been leaning forward open-mouthed watching his prophecies fulfill themselves sat back in his chair and waited for the denouement, a heart lead.

North squirmed, thought, and lit a cigarette. Then he led a small diamond. South ate the crown, the left ear, and a portion of the face of the king of hearts—but he made North eat the sword and the large button in the middle of the tunic.

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**Recreation Roundup**

Audrey Brown successfully defended her championship in girls' ping pong at Barnum Field. Audrey, a southwaver, defeated all challengers and disposed of Clara Anderson in the finals. Audrey is the first recreation contestant to repeat as champion in the same sport. She now holds the 1947 championship emblem and the 1948 winner's certificate.

One hundred and fifty pieces of bubble gum were handed out to the young blow-bards in the recent bubble gum contest held at all the playgrounds in Birmingham. The finals were held at Barnum and the judges had little difficulty in awarding the undisputed championship to little Shirley Dusbisher who came through with an eighteen inch bubble. Emily Berr ranked second with Madonna Springer, Noreen Harrigan and Frankie Caniff offering the best opposition.

The boys' ping pong tourney, an elimination affair, was extended for two days and Bobby Jackson was the victor. Gerry Wedge opposed Bobbie in the finals and was beaten 21 to 15.

New tether tennis poles have been installed at Quarton, Pierce, Adams, and Barnum schools. The game is very popular and is being played constantly. The big tether tournament is scheduled for July 22.

Plans are being drawn up to place a boxing ring in the grass at Barnum playground for the preliminaries for the big midget fight card. Ropes, fight stools, bells,

seconds, referees, timers, and judges are all lined up already. The boys are punching the bag, skipping rope, and sparring in preparation. Young Tom Gurdick, a six year old, seems like a sure winner in his division.

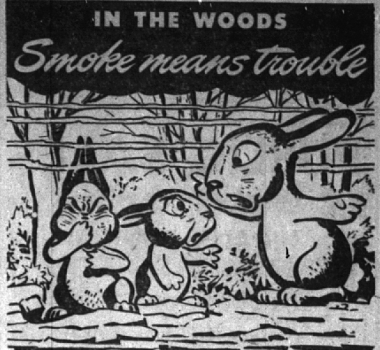
**American Legion Batting Averages**  
Jim Gumble, 256; Chuck Ganley, 385; Bob Folin, 357; Pat Wall, 350; Buzz Jackson, 445; Skip Halpin, 344; Russ Gurdick, 306; Norm McComb, 285; John Dixon, 278; Walter Bodie, 250; Clay Joyce, 225; Jim Hogan, 258; Jim Lurkins, 200; Ken McQueen, 167; Ed Smith, 117; Team batting, 293.

Donald Noonan won the boys' shuffleboard tourney and Noreen Harrigan won the girls' division at the Barnum playground. Both contestants received city championship certificates.

The junior tennis emblem was awarded to Shirley Hopkins, who won the victory at Adams court at Barnum school.

The first staff casualty of the current season occurred when Mrs. Betty Gibson, playground leader at the Adams school, came down with an old fashioned case of chickenpox. Miss Sallie Buck has been serving at Adams during the absence of Mrs. Gibson.

Every 38 seconds fire breaks out in the United States. Every 2 minutes an American dwelling catches fire. Every 50 minutes a person dies in a fire or from burns.

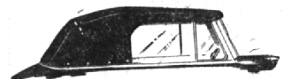


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