

Bridge Anyone?

By Donna Bishop

At Christmastime that first semester of college I headed home on the train from Denver to Houston, Texas where my family had recently moved. I met a young woman sitting next to me on the train and we exchanged enough conversation to realize that we were both college students headed for Texas. She was a junior at University of Colorado while I was a freshman at the University of Wyoming. She mentioned that she was going down to the club car to see if she could get a Bridge game together and wanted to know if I played. I told her I had been taking some required Bridge lessons in my sorority but I assured her I only knew the basics.

Maybe an hour later she stopped by and said they had lost one of their Bridge partners and would I please fill in or the threesome could not play. I again said I was a novice and didn't feel confident to play a regular game. She insisted it would be fine, that it was just a friendly game to pass the time. We worked our way back to the club car while Bridge do's and don'ts rushed through my brain. The first few hands were easy as I was dealt very poor cards and could easily pass the bidding. Our opponents took the bid. I played correctly, following suit with my discards and taking a trick or two along the way. However, my luck changed. My partner made an opening bid in spades which are a black suit in the card deck. I was holding a lot of black cards in my hand which I mistakenly thought were spades, so I returned her bid in spades and she jumped to a contract where the winner takes all the tricks. She was counting all the spades in her hand and what she assumed I had in spades in my hand. When I laid my cards down for her to play the hand I had maybe six or seven black cards which were unfortunately clubs not the spades I had bid. She was furious and the friendly game got very tense! I was mortified at my mistake.

Actually she was a skilled player and didn't lose too badly but needless to say the game ended. I exited the club car. I was never again asked to join the card table and she never even returned to the seat next to mine!