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Eight "Midwives" Attend Birth Of Elephant In Ceylon Jungle

COLOMBO (AP)—A Ceylon forest guard has witnessed what few humans have seen in this island's jungles—the ritualistic birth of a baby elephant.

Guard W. L. A. Andiris watched from a vantage point within a cluster of high rocks in the Yala game sanctuary. Writing in the official records of the Ceylon department of wild life, Andiris says the mother elephant was attended by eight "midwives."

"It was obvious that the elephants made a careful selection of their 'maternity room' some time before in an open clearing adjoining a small lagoon, well hidden by deep jungle on all sides," he adds.

MUCH CARESSING

The mother elephant lay on her side in the clearing. The eight attendants surrounded her, caressing her gently with their trunks.

As time for the birth approached, the mother became more and more nervous, shifting her position in the clearing by taking a few steps this way and that, lying down after each movement. Seven of the attendant elephants withdrew into the jungles leaving one with the expectant mother. From time to time as the mother rested or

moved around, members of the "midwife" group came from the jungle in pairs to check her with their trunks.

Actual birth was accomplished without any apparent strain or sound from the mother. The mother left the baby and walked about 10 paces away. She trumpeted and the other elephants emerged from the jungle, also trumpeting, and seemed to caress the mother again with their trunks.

"Then all eight turned in unison to the child," Andiris reported. "One raised it about four feet from the ground, then gently lowered it on its feet. In turn each one of the eight moved past the newborn baby and blew sand on it with their trunks, drying its hide, at the end of which time the calf stood quite steady on its feet and attempted to suck milk from the other elephants."

CARRIES CALF AWAY

"Fifteen minutes later the mother, ending her postnatal rest on the ground, stood up, trumpeted loudly, and walked swiftly to her tiny child. Then she lifted it with her trunk and took it aside from the other elephants."

"Then as the calf attempted to suckle the mother the big female elephant gently lowered herself to her knees and permitted her child to have its first meal."

"This important event finished, the mother again trumpeted, picked up her calf in her trunk, raised it high over her head and disappeared into the jungles, escorted on either side by her 'maternity' staff."

"This was exclusively a female affair. The male elephants gave this spot a wide berth."

Yoshida Plans Retiring Soon

TOKYO — Japanese newspapers say embattled Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida informed party leaders today that he plans to retire shortly from active politics.

The Nippon Times says Yoshida's retirement intentions were "informally revealed" to deputy Prime Minister Taketora Ogata. At that session, The Times says, Yoshida asked Ogata to take over as president of the Liberal conservative party, now headed by the prime minister.

HONOLULU — Nebraska's Orange Bowl-bound Cornhuskers, featuring long touchdown runs by Ron Clark, Don Comstock and Dirkes Rolston, swamped the University of Hawaii 50-0 Friday night before 17,000 fans in an intersectional football clash.

Nanaimo Marks Centennial Of First Settlers' Arrival

NANAIMO, B.C. — It's Princess Royal day in this east coast Vancouver island city today.

One hundred years ago, the centre's first settlers arrived on the British Columbia coast from England in the Hudson's Bay Company barque Princess Royal. The company had built a settlement five years earlier to mine coal, but the 70 passengers from Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, were the first permanent European inhabitants.

Pride of place at the day-long centennial celebrations goes to between 200 and 300 direct descendants of the Nanaimo pioneers. One of the oldest attending was 86-year-old Mrs. Matilda Mounts of Vancouver, daughter of pioneer John Malpass. Others came from points throughout the province and as far south as California.

Ceremonies started this morn-

ing with the re-enactment of the landing, below the bastion, an old log fort, by a local drama group.

A. J. Gilbert, Vancouver manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, officiated at the sealing of a time capsule this afternoon. The lead-lined box containing tape recordings of the centennial, photographs and other items was set in a concrete platform atop pioneer rock. It is not to be opened before 2054.

City and provincial government officials are attending a dinner tonight and a big entertainment program will round out the celebrations.

BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

It's Not Always Smart to Take 4th Hand Trick
The problems of fourth hand play were being discussed.

"Where is there any problem?" asked Mr. Muzzy. "When you're fourth hand, you either can take the trick and do—or you can't take it and don't."

This summation was laudable only for its brevity. Everybody, but Mr. Muzzy knows it is not that simple. Sometimes, if you take a trick, fourth hand, you give your opponents their contract. And sometimes it works the other way around.

SIMPLE VARIATIONS

There are simple variations of this theme, as illustrated in today's hand, and there are some very complex variations, which will be discussed later in this series.

Today, Miss Brash arrived at a completely hopeless contract of three no trump. Mr. New tried to head her off by rebidding his diamonds over her two no trump bid.

A wiser course would have been to pass two no trump. That's the only way to stop Miss Brash.

Actually, there was no need to stop under game because Mr. Muzzy helped Miss Brash to make her contract.

OPENS SIX

Mrs. Keen opened the six of hearts. Mr. Muzzy put up the king and the ace won. Miss Brash promptly laid down the 10 of diamonds. Mrs. Keen properly played the eight, the ace went on from dummy and, without hesitation, Mr. Muzzy won with the ace.

Apparently he was obsessed with the idea that his partner had led from something like five hearts to the queen-ten.

He slapped the jack of hearts on the table and was ready to play the eight at the next trick. But at the next trick it wasn't his lead. Miss Brash won with the queen of hearts and rattled off enough tricks for her contract.

As you see, if Mr. Muzzy had permitted Miss Brash to win the

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable
North (Mr. New)
S—8 6 2
H—5 3
D—K Q J 9 3
C—9 6 6

West (Mrs. Keen)
S—Q 8 5
H—10 9 7 6 2
D—8 2
C—Q J 4

East (Mr. Muzzy)
S—J 10 4 3
H—K J 8
D—A 7 4
C—K 8 3

South (Miss Brash)
S—A K 7
H—A Q 4
D—10 9 6 5
C—A 10 7 2

The bidding:
1 C South West North East
2 NT Pass 1 D Pass
3 NT All Pass 3 D Pass

first two diamond tricks, that's all the diamonds she would have won. And she would have had no play at all for nine tricks.

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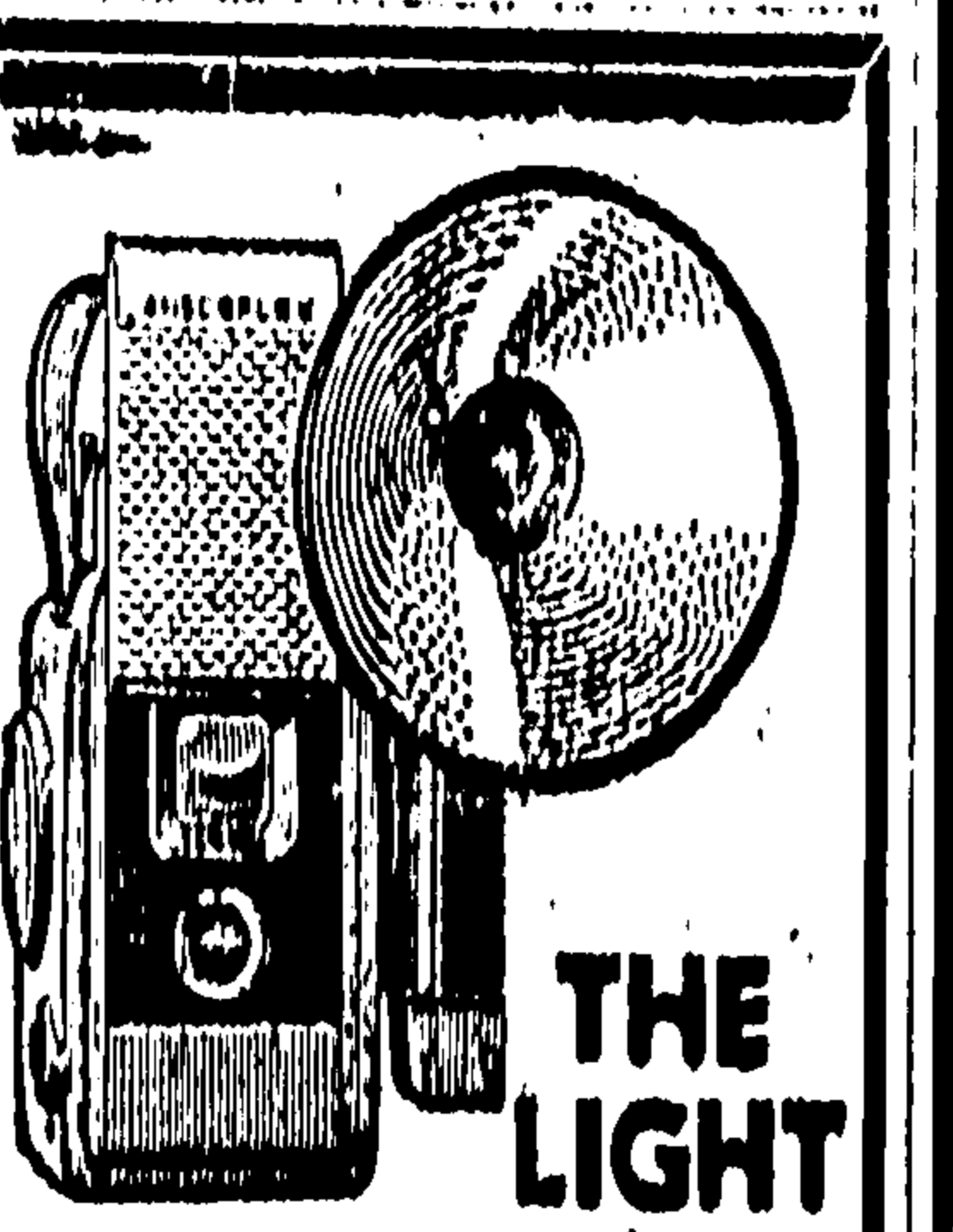
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