If you’ve spent very much time around the Wichita Bridge Center, you may have noticed a very tall slender brunette, who may seem even taller than she is because of the shoes she wears. That would be Suzette Moore, who has been playing bridge for about eight years. She first took lessons at Crestview Country Club, but eventually just showed up at the Bridge Studio on Hydraulic. At first she played with Jack Conway, but eventually became the mentee of Marlo Goering, with whom she has played ever since.

Suzette married her husband Robert 30 years ago and has two daughters—Kelsey, who is in New York pursuing a career in acting and Taylor, who is about to finish a degree in nursing at W.S.U. Both of the girls also took ballet and each one took her turn as Clara in The Nutcracker.

In her youth, Suzette also took ballet, was a cheerleader in high school, and rode quarter horses to show. After she graduated from the university, she taught French at Ottawa Middle School, Shawnee Mission South High School in Kansas City, and Emporia State University. That career ended after she married and became a stay-at-home mom.

Suzette and Robert travel frequently. He’s a sports fan, and two years ago they traveled to France and Switzerland to watch the Jayhawks. Every January, they go to St. Martin where they have made friends. Suzette has even checked out the possibility of playing bridge there.

Recently, Suzette has become involved with the youth bridge program, which is still in the planning stage, but she’s hoping that it will take off in the near future. Art Bloomer’s daughter-in-law is cheerleader sponsor at Maize Middle School, so she was Art’s contact there. Middle school involves grades 6, 7, and 8, but the 6th graders are not eligible to participate in the sports programs. That gave Art’s daughter-in-law the idea that a bridge program for the 6th graders would be a good thing. Presently, the Youth Bridge committee is attempting to solve the problem of the amount of time available to play at school. The study hall at the end of the day is only 30 minutes, which is not really enough time for the program. Suzette is hoping that they will be able to extend that time to after school, but that brings up a transportation problem, on which they are working at present. They are hoping that they can meet two or three times each week. Raelynn Pfaff, a teacher at Maize Middle School, has volunteered to sponsor the program, but she hasn’t played bridge before, so she will be
In Volume 1, Issue 6 of the November 28, 2014 Bridge News, it was claimed that it is required to show the stop card whenever a skip bid is made. This was backed up by a statement made by the ACBL president and by Chapter XII of the ACBL Codification. At the recent Salina tournament I asked the director Rick Beye about it. Rick used to be head of all the tournament directors for the ACBL. His response was that it is not required, but if you ever use the stop card, you must use it for all skip bids. This prevents differentiating between a weak and a strong skip bid by using the stop card on just one or the other. Rick went on to say that whether the stop card is used or not, the next bidder is required to wait about 10 seconds after any skip bid. Since the next bidder may or may not need extra thinking time after a skip bid, the required wait will hide which situation exists from the other players. It also gives the other players time for extra thought without telling everyone that it is needed. I asked Rick if he was sure of the rule, and he said he was.

At the age of 18, Beth Rogers packed up her 11-week-old baby and flew to Germany, where she lived almost eight years altogether with her military husband. Her other son was born with dual citizenship during that time. Beth will add Sweden to the list of European countries she has visited, when she makes her 10th transatlantic trip next summer. Her bridge partners are allowing her only two weeks this time.

I asked Tom Ebben what he does when he is not at the bridge table. He said he plays poker with the boys. I said, “How do you do?” He said, “Okay.” The twinkle in his eye acknowledged that he really does better than “okay.” He bowls. His average score can not be as good as it sounds. It seems that it should be twice what mine was when I gave up on bowling at half his age, but it’s not quite. He goes to his grandchildren’s ball games. He really is old enough to be retired. He can tell you some interesting stories about his former job with the Health Department if you pump him a bit. He plays pretty regularly with his bridge partner Carol Dumford on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons. A few weeks ago they won with the second highest percentage score, 67.59%, for the year for the Friday afternoon game. Pat and Charles Wiggins had 68.89% on Friday afternoon, May 22.

Sandra Tholen just returned from a month-long vacation in Australia. She went with a group of 20 people who stayed in private homes. She thoroughly enjoyed herself, but she said 30 days was a little long to be away from home. When asked what her favorite sight was, she was quick to name the Rhododendron Gardens. The next time you are looking for an inexpensive holiday, you might consider visiting the 104 acres of brilliantly coloured blooms. Entry is free.
Early card playing, in Egypt and China, was restricted to specific, wealthy, social classes. In Europe the nobility and upper classes had special packs of cards made for them. A Catholic brother wrote, in 1377, “It is of advantage to noblemen and to others, especially if they practice it courteously and without money.” Everybody played cards, from kings and dukes, clerics, friars and upper-class ladies to whores, sailors, explorers and prisoners in jail. Henry VII of England enjoyed gambling and his private expenses include several entries for money lost at cards. Likewise, Duke Wenceslas of Luxemburg and Duchess Joanna of Brabant repeatedly spent sums of money at cards.

In many locations, during the Middle Ages, card playing was seen as an anti-social pastime because of its association with cheating and gambling. According to one historian, “Violence would often break out, as huge sums were won or lost in no time.” This resulted in bans and prohibitions as preachers demonized card playing and authorities sought ways to regulate it. An early writer described the playing of cards as “an invention of the devil.”

In 1436, a special printing device for the production of playing cards was imported to the city of Ferrara, in northern Italy, one of the centers of Italian court society. As a result, cards quickly became objects of mass consumption. The process involved etching or engraving the subject on the surface of a piece of copper or steel, applying ink to the metal, and then impressing the inked metal to paper. This device was in use decades before Gutenberg invented his famous printing press in c1455.

According to the “Tax Book of Nuremberg [Germany],” in the 1400s, at least a few women were involved in the production of playing cards. The tax record identifies a woman by the name of Eliza as a card-maker, from 1433-1435, and Margaret as a card-painter, during 1438. Other than that, the record doesn’t clearly specify what they did. (See Theo. L. de Vinne, The Invention of Printing, 1876.)

In 1774, on the eve of the American Revolution, the First Continental Congress’s Articles of Association included a paragraph designed to promote economy, frugality, and industry, among other things. Any activities that promoted “extravagance and dissipation” were thus banned, including, among other things, card playing, horse racing, cock-fighting, and theatrical performances.

The first book devoted to the game of Whist, the game of which bridge was a direct descendant, was published in 1742. Titled Edmond Hoyle’s Short Treatise, it reportedly became a best seller.

Whist is the name of a website that describes the classic game of Whist, which was played widely in the 18th and 19th centuries. Whist continues to be played in the UK, where they hold local tournaments called “whist drives.” Click on this website address if you’d like to learn more about whist: http://www.pagat.com/whist/whist.html
In the early 1980s we played in the Tulsa Regional with David & Lee. The ACBL came up with a change allowing Flight A and Flight B events at Regional tournaments so of course we played in the Flight B Swiss team event. We won the first four matches and then there was the fifth match. While bidding one of our problem hands, Pat and I somehow got past 3NT. My mastermind thinking was that since we passed 3NT, we needed to bid a slam. I bid 6 Clubs which was promptly doubled by my right hand opponent. I reacted insanely with an immediate redouble! Mind you, this was a team game and we were in a shaky vulnerable small slam doubled and redoubled down two. I did not enjoy the rest of the match. Our partners came back looking very pleased and my head was hanging low as I began my apologies. As expected, our partners were minus 630 on the board that we were minus 1,000 which translates to losing 17 imps on just one hand. Somehow, in spite of our disaster, our teammates carried us through to win that match by seven imps. When David asked why I redoubled that slam contract, I replied that my opponent irritated me. At the end of that day, we ended up winning seven matches and losing one match by 2 imps. Our score of 7 ¼ matches was enough to win the event and earn 26 gold points. Pat, who started the day with no gold, achieved her goal of Life Master by earning all of the required 25 gold points while also exceeding the required total of 300 master points.

Another memorable day occurred in a Flight B Knockout event in Kansas City playing with Herschel H., Dr. Fritsch and David K. At the end of the first session on Friday morning, we learned that all 3 teams in our round robin had won one match. The director needed to figure out which two of the 3 teams would advance to the second round. The teams with the biggest margin of
Dates For Your Calendar

November 27 - There will be no game the day after Thanksgiving.

December 5 at 10:00 will be a “Thanks Wichita, you are the greatest volunteers” bridge game and chili lunch provided by Carol Webb. This is a FREE game but we do want to know the number of people planning on attending. R.S.V.P and put that on your calendar.

December 7-13 is STaC week. All games will award silver points with an additional $1 charge. There will probably be some extra games, so watch club events.

December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st - NO DD Bridge games