The most original and fertile concept in modern bidding theory is the "relay," a minimum artificial bid that asks for a description of partner's hand.

A Stayman two-club bid is a prototype relay, but takes only one step. The first players to devise relay chains, allowing one partner to describe his hand so that the other can fix the final contract, were Pierre Ghestem and Rene Bacherich of France.

They helped their country win two world titles, in 1956 and 1960, but their example was not followed for more than a decade. A quantum jump was achieved by Dave Cliff of Basking Ridge, N.J., who devised a comprehensive method.

**Signal by Skipping**

Matthew Granovetter, a young player destined for stardom, contributed an essential element: the denial cue-bid. This called for a player who has already described his strength and distribution to skip over a suit in which he has a significant card.

Many experts around the world now use relay structures, which may be grafted onto standard methods or be part of an integrated system. Intensive work by New Zealand theorists has generated a quite different language, elements of which, as recent articles in The Bridge World suggest, can be applied by traditional bidders.

The leading practitioners of the Cliff-Granovetter ideas are Ron Rubin and Mike Becker, who used them in winning world team titles in 1983. Recently, in the final of the Reisinger Teams in Winnipeg, Manitoba, they achieved a minor miracle on the diagramed deal.

Most average players would not advance beyond game on the North-South cards. Expert partnerships would be well satisfied if they reached six clubs, but the ideal contract, especially at match points or the actual board-a-match scoring, is six no-trump.

The lengthy relay auction shown was as mysterious to the opponents as Babylonian cuneiform, but was accurately explained. North bid a minimum step at each turn, and South's bids described his exact distribution and his two major-suit kings. North settled in six no-trump, knowing that his partner would lose the diamond ace and take 12 tricks.
The danger of finding the three missing clubs with East was minor, a mere 11 percent, and as it was the play presented no problem.

The Fall Sectional Tournament of the North Jersey Bridge League begins today at the Guardian Angel Auditorium, East Allendale Avenue, Allendale, N.J., with the following schedule: Today - Men's and women's pairs, 1:30 P.M.; mixed pairs and nonmaster pairs, 8 P.M. Tomorrow - Flighted pairs, 1:30 P.M.; open pairs and nonmaster pairs, 8 P.M. Sunday - Flighted Swiss teams (two sessions), noon.