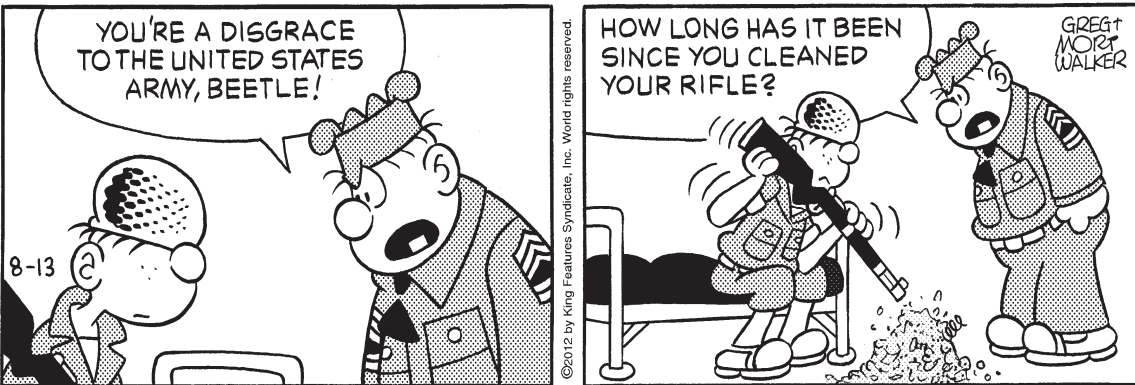


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



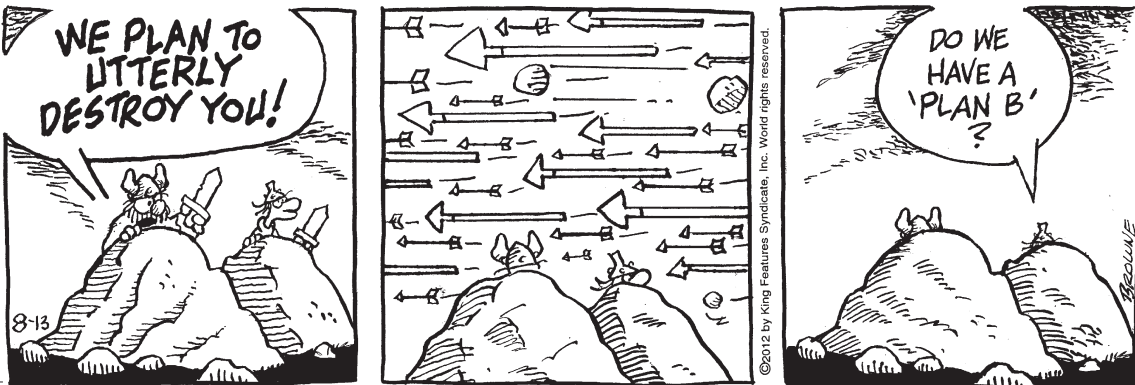
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



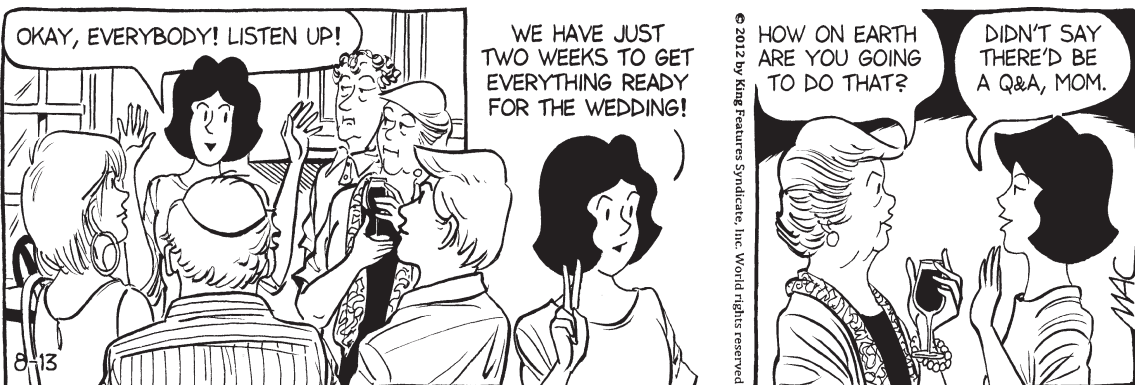
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



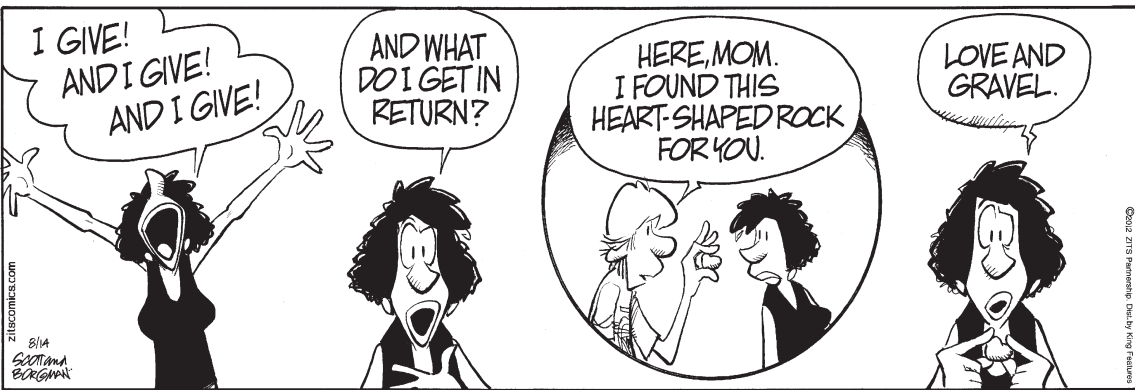
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Vintage names present puzzles

Knowing the name of the maker of any collectible or antique adds value, but sometimes a name creates a mystery. There are many vintage children's toys marked "Steelcraft," but books or on-line searches don't quickly turn up the history of the mark. These toys were made by Murray Ohio Manufacturing Co., a Cleveland firm that opened in 1919 to make parts for that recent invention, the automobile. By 1923, Murray also was making toy cars using the steel and production methods it used to manufacture full-size car parts. The toys were marketed as Steelcraft Wheel Goods. This diversity helped Murray survive the Depression. The company's pedal cars, airplanes, coaster wagons, bicycles and smaller wheeled toys were marked "Steelcraft," the identification seen by today's collector. Murray has made many other products, including lawnmowers and tractors. It even made special-order toy trucks that looked like a customer's full-size delivery trucks. Murray is still in business.



This large pressed-steel toy airplane has a 26 1/2-inch wingspan. It was made in about 1919. The tri-motor with a "U.S. Mail" logo is marked "Steelcraft." It sold for \$881 at Bertoia Auctions in Vineland, N.J.

Q: My antique Morris chair originally belonged to my grandfather. He was born in 1862 and left the chair to my father in 1936. The chair is oak with an adjustable back and loose cushions. I had it refinished once and the leather on the cushions replaced. Can you give me information on the current price?

A: The first Morris chairs were made in England by the firm of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. around 1866. The Morris chair is one of the first reclining chairs. Many furniture makers copied the design, and it was an especially popular style among Arts and Crafts furniture makers.

The most famous examples of antique Morris chairs were made by the Craftsman Workshops of Gustav Stickley in Syracuse, N.Y. A Stickley Morris chair from about 1912 recently sold for \$4,500 at auction. Other antique Morris chairs can sell from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

Tip: Ivory, opals and pearls need to "breathe." Do not store them wrapped in plastic. Instead keep them in a cloth bag.

Sign up for our weekly e-mail, "Kovels Komments." It includes news, tips and answers to readers' questions, and is free if you register on our website. Kovels.com adds to the information in this column and helps you find useful sources needed by collectors.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ A 8 6 3
♥ A Q 8
♦ J 10
♠ A K 8 2

WEST
♥ Q 7 2
♦ J 7 3 2
♦ 6 3 2
♠ 9 5 3

EAST
♦ J 10 4
♥ K 10 9 5
♦ Q 8 7 5 4
♠ 10

SOUTH
♦ K 9 5
♥ 6 4
♦ A K 9
♠ Q J 7 6 4

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 6 ♠

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Famous Hand

This deal occurred many years ago in a European Championship match between Norway and England. It features an error of omission that might easily go unnoticed in a casual game.

The Norwegian pair quickly reached six clubs as shown. Had West led anything but a heart, declarer would have made the slam easily. After drawing trumps and conceding a spade, he would have discarded his losing heart on dummy's fourth spade.

But West did lead a heart, posing an immediate threat to the contract. Declarer saw no option but to finesse dummy's queen, which lost to the king. He later lost a spade trick and went down one.

No one will ever know whether declarer would have made the slam had he adopted a different approach, but there is no question that he did not give himself the best chance. He could have improved his chances significantly had he played the eight of hearts from dummy at trick one rather than the queen!

To appreciate the effect of this play, put yourself in East's position and assume the eight is played from dummy at trick one. What would you do? Remember, you can see only your own hand and dummy. Might you not assume that declarer has the jack, and that if you didn't take your king, you might lose it?

If you take the king, declarer makes the contract, eventually discarding his losing spade on a high heart. Of course, if you play the nine, the slam goes down, just as before.

Declarer has nothing to lose by playing the eight at trick one. If West has the king, the finesse will work later, and the slam will still be made. But the play of the eight gives East an opportunity to err and is therefore the correct play.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"We're waiting for Daddy to come back from his jog."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

8	3	4					9
	4	7		2			
2		9					1
5		8		4		1	
6							3
	1		3		2		4
3					7		6
			8	9		3	
7				1	8		5

Difficulty Level ★

8/13

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle.

The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral.

The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

5	3	9	6	8	2	4	7	1
6	7	4	1	3	9	2	5	8
8	2	1	7	5	4	3	6	9
4	5	2	9	6	8	1	3	7
3	6	8	2	7	1	9	4	5
1	9	7	3	4	5	8	2	6
2	4	6	8	1	7	5	9	3
9	1	3	5	2	6	7	8	4
7	8	5	4	9	3	6	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Cryptoquip

E K H V F Y O J N G F M D S F S O N M

I E N G E K M H V D B W J O Y O

N D H F Y N G J B H O J D F J O F H H K I O R

S K J O D N R O : G F H N W E - K J M N F .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'M MAKING OFFERS TO BUY BLANKETS AT THIS AUCTION, YOU COULD SAY THAT'S BEDDING BIDDING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals H

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 State leader (Abbr.) | 39 Ardent whitener | 1 Stare stupidly | 21 Disen-cumber |
| 4 Donkey sheep | 43 Female sheep | 2 Reed instrument | 23 London-ers' last letter |
| 7 Talks on and on | 44 Cowardly one in Oz | 3 Predicate part | 25 Sandwich cookie |
| 11 First victim | 46 Work | 4 Summery quaff | 26 Stead |
| 13 Homer's interjection | 50 Game played on horseback | 5 Kind | 27 Rowing tools |
| 14 Lecher's look | 53 Charged bit | 6 Unspoken "I dunno" | 28 Door-frame part |
| 15 Had on | 55 Repre-hensible | 7 Taking time off, GI-style | 29 List-ening abbr. |
| 16 Make a mistake | 56 "The Good Earth" heroine | 8 Past | 30 Region |
| 17 Greek vowel | 57 Take to court | 9 Diner order, for short | 31 Light (Sp.) |
| 18 Skewered entree | 58 Paradise | 10 The Red or the Black | 35 Spelling contest |
| 20 Swerve | 59 Rim | 12 "Get lost!" | 38 Biol. or bot. |
| 22 Namely (Abbr.) | 60 Explosive letters | 19 Baby's mealtime garb | 40 Punctur-ing tool |
| 24 Paid escort | 61 Drunkard | | 42 Jack up |
| 28 Shame-less hussy | | | 45 3-Down's counter-part |
| 32 Andrea — (ill-fated ship) | | | 47 Actions at auctions |
| 33 Tiny particle | | | 48 Bread spread |
| 34 Fix the sound-track | | | 49 Tenant's expense |
| 36 — -do-well | | | 50 Macabre author |
| 37 Horses' neck adorn-ments | | | 51 On in years |

Saturday's answer 8-13

