

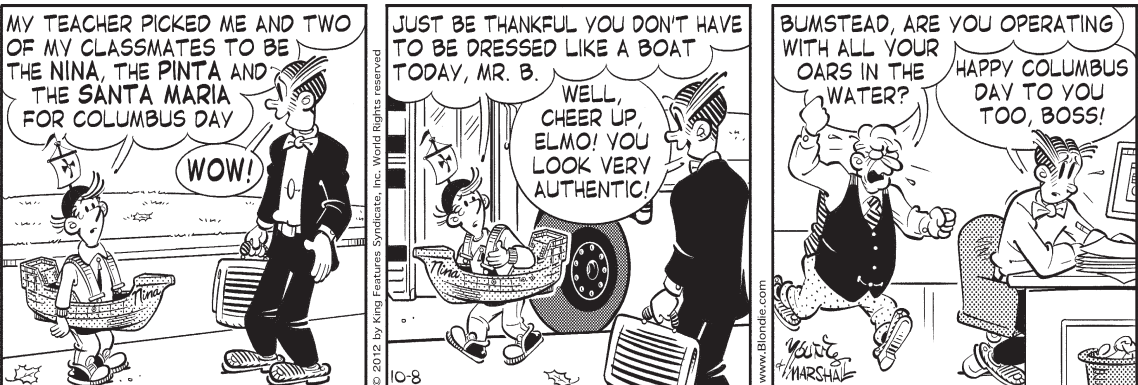
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



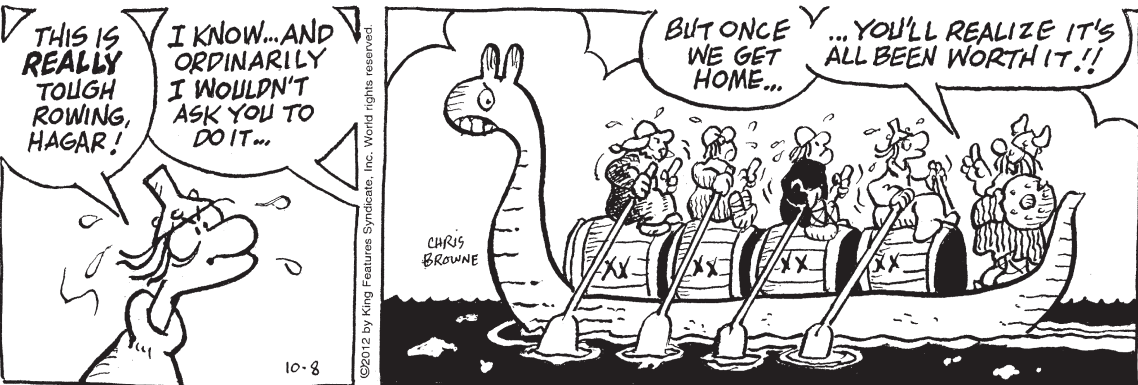
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



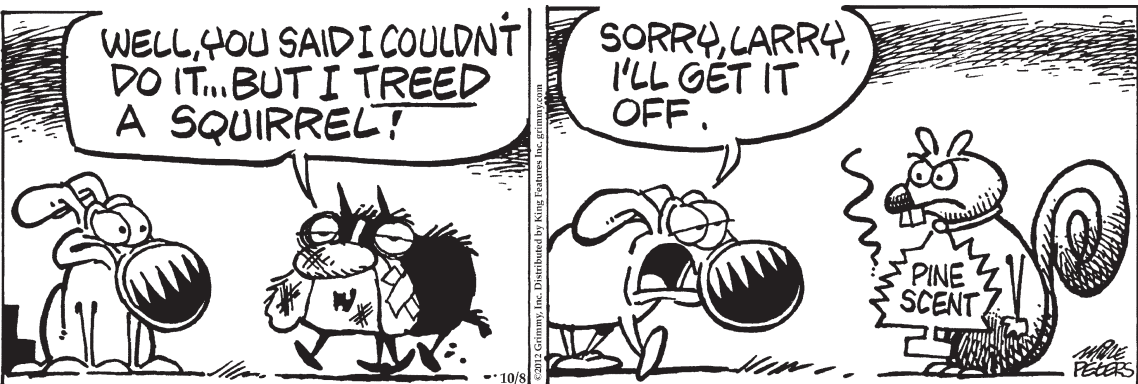
Blondie • Chic Young



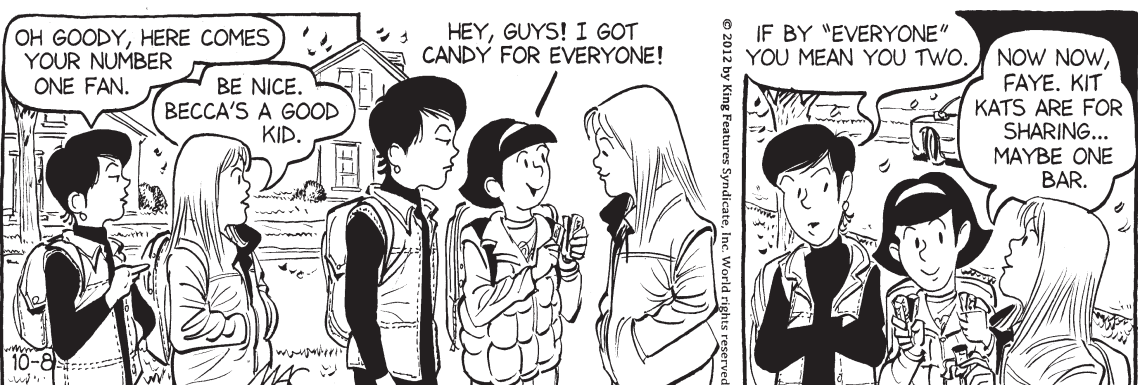
Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



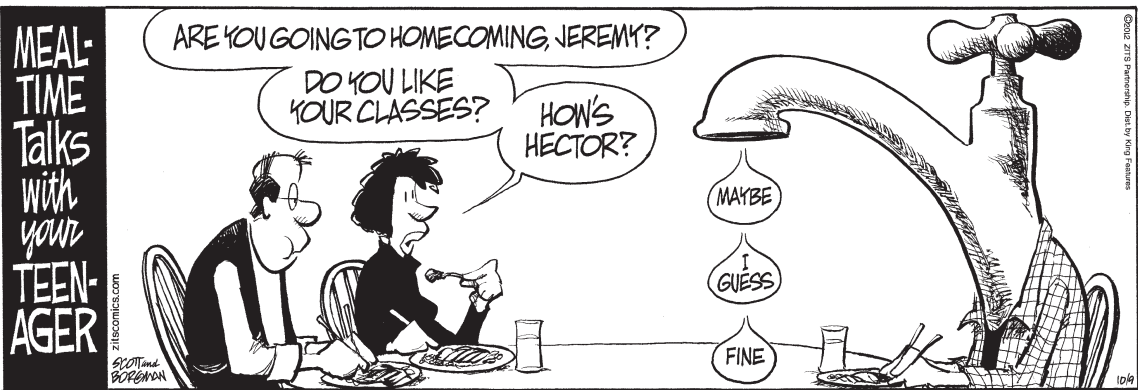
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

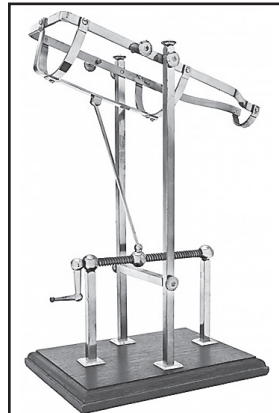


Terry Kovel

• Antiques and Collecting

Wine pourer has story to tell

Part of the fun of being a collector is trying to identify recently discovered old tools and, if possible, trace the past owners of the finds. A strange brass object was auctioned in Chicago in 2011. It was identified as a "mechanical wine pourer." It looks like a construction toy with a rectangular "arm" made of brass rods, shaped to hold a bottle. The arm is at the top of a 14-inch H-frame made of brass rods. Turn a crank at the bottom of the frame, and the arm and bottle dip down. It was indeed a wine pourer. It was marked "Yeo, Ratcliffe & Dawe," so it was possible to learn more. The company opened in 1946 in London, and was sold in 1961.

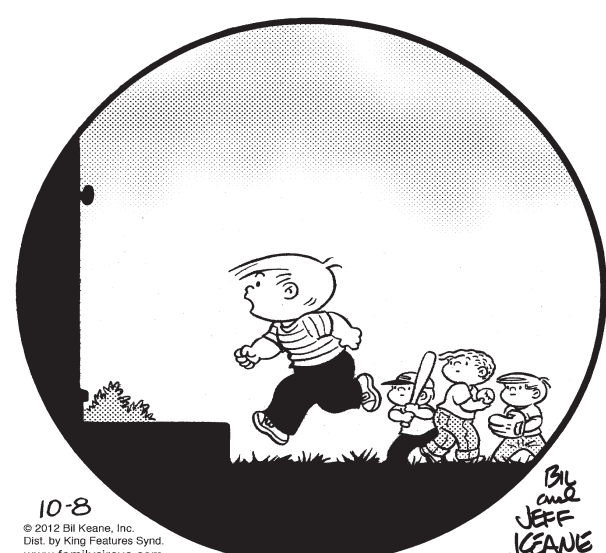


Online records of local archaeology studies proved the company was housed in a building constructed in 1415 (yes, it's almost 600 years old!) and housed a wine merchant even then. The building was restored many times, and the 1946 restoration revealed an amazing history. It had been a three-story building serving as a wine merchant's shop and home. Parts of the original 15th-century roof, 15th- and 16th-century beams, an original fireplace, an old white oak floor and 18th- and 19th-century additions were found. Some of the original plaster mixed with straw was still in place. An early woman's shoe and some clay pipes that were hundreds of years old also were discovered.

The mechanical wine pourer dates from the recent owner, sometime around 1950. But the brass pourer had extra value for collectors because of its time in the historic building. It sold for more than \$1,950. **Q: In the mid-1980s, I bought a matching carved oak buffet, table and four chairs from a local Minnesota antiques dealer. I think she said she bought the set in the South. There's a plaque in one of the buffet doors that says: "Wood Green Furnishing Co., Actual Makers of Good Hand Made Furniture, 134b High Road, Wood Green, N.22, Telephone Bows Park 2767." I can find out nothing about this furniture maker. Can you help?**

A: Wood Green is a district within the city of London. The Wood Green Furnishing Co. started the legal process of liquidating its assets in 1941, so your furniture was made before the 1940s. (c) 2012 by Cowles Syndicate Inc.

Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I wish we lived in the old days. They had their bathrooms right out in the backyard."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

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.

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

Cryptoquip

GYWPA PUSPKSWSJ T ZMXPWTY
 CTYAWSJ ZDKGTPX CWVB
 ZDMXKBXKU-YWAX MUCXKZ:
 "VBX GTSVTZVWP GYUUK."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THOUGHT ABOUT THROWING MY DOG'S BALL A MILE AWAY, BUT CONCLUDED THAT WAS A FAR-FETCHED IDEA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals W

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable. **NORTH** ♠7 6 5 2 ♥K 6 2 ♦J 6 3 ♣K Q 3 **WEST** ♠K J 9 4 ♥Q J 5 4 ♦10 4 ♣10 5 2 **EAST** ♠8 3 ♥10 8 ♦5 2 ♣A J 9 8 7 6 4 **SOUTH** ♠A Q 10 ♥A 9 7 3 ♦A K Q 9 8 7 ♣—

The bidding: West Pass North Pass East 4♣ South 5♣ Pass Pass 5 NT Pass 6♦ Opening lead — two of clubs.

Famous Hand
 This extraordinary hand was played in a team-of-four match many years ago by the great Italian star, Giorgio Belladonna. The bidding went as shown, and West led the deuce of clubs against six diamonds.

There were many different lines of play available to Belladonna, including the one that had been chosen by the declarer at the first table, who also reached six diamonds and got a club lead.

At that table, declarer ruffed East's ace of clubs, cashed the A-K of trumps, led a trump to dummy's jack, finessed the queen of spades, losing to West's king, and eventually finished down one.

But Belladonna, after ruffing East's club ace at trick one, cashed the A-K-J of trumps and then discarded the ten of spades on dummy's king of clubs. Next he ruffed dummy's last club, producing this seven-card position:

North ♠7 6 5 2 ♥K 6 2 **West** ♠K J 9 ♥Q J 5 4 ♦10 4 ♣10 5 2 **East** ♠8 3 ♥10 8 ♦5 2 ♣A J 9 8 7 6 4 **South** ♠A Q 10 ♥A 9 7 3 ♦A K Q 9 8 7 ♣—

Belladonna now cashed the queen of diamonds, placing West in an untenable position. Had he discarded a spade, Belladonna would have thrown a heart from dummy and then played the A-Q of spades to bring home the slam, scoring two tricks with dummy's 7-6 of spades. When West elected to discard a heart instead, Belladonna played the A-K and another heart, establishing his fourth heart while at the same time forcing West to return a spade into the A-Q for the slam-going trick.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Fire residue
 4 One of the Seven Dwarfs
 7 Spruced up
 11 Dazzle
 13 Historic period
 14 Related (to)
 15 Caffeine-rich nut
 16 Battle
 17 Dissolve
 18 Okefenokee, e.g.
 20 Traditional tales
 22 Conger, for one
 24 The Enlightened One
 28 Knot for human consumption?
 32 Thin porridge
 33 Apiece
 34 Martini ingredient
 36 Gumbo base
 37 "Hog-wash!"
- DOWN**
 1 Requests
 2 Pack away
 3 Hawaiian dance
 4 Morning moisture
 5 Verbal
 6 Chocolate substitute
 7 B-list
 8 — braggarts
 9 Have a living
 10 Explosive letters
 12 Old music-based game show
 19 Candy known for its dispensers
 21 Carpet
 23 Lower limb
 25 Top-ranking noble
 26 Mr., in Munich
 27 "Sad to say ..."
 28 Energizes, with "up"
 29 Grate
 30 Reverbate
 31 Claiborne of fashion
 35 Pinch
 38 Court
 40 "Bam!"
 42 O'Donnell of TV news
 45 Hardy cabbage
 47 Home turf?
 48 Fit of peevishness
 49 Lofty
 50 "See ya"
 51 Listener
 52 Puncturing tool
 54 Triumph

Saturday's answer 10-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12			13			14
15				16					17
18				19			20		21
22				23			24		25
26				27					28
29				30			31		32
33				34			35		36
37				38			39		40
41				42			43		44
45				46			47		48
49				50			51		52
53				54			55		56
57				58			59		60
61				62			63		64
65				66			67		68
69				70			71		72