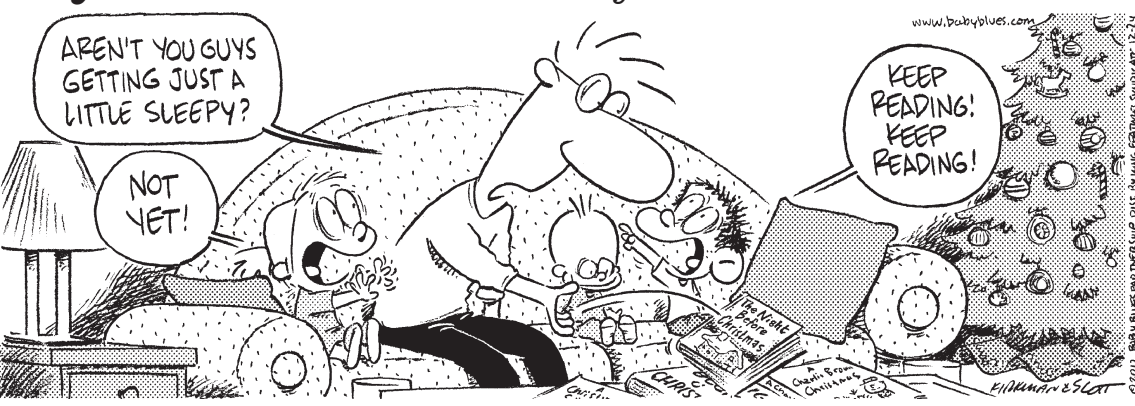
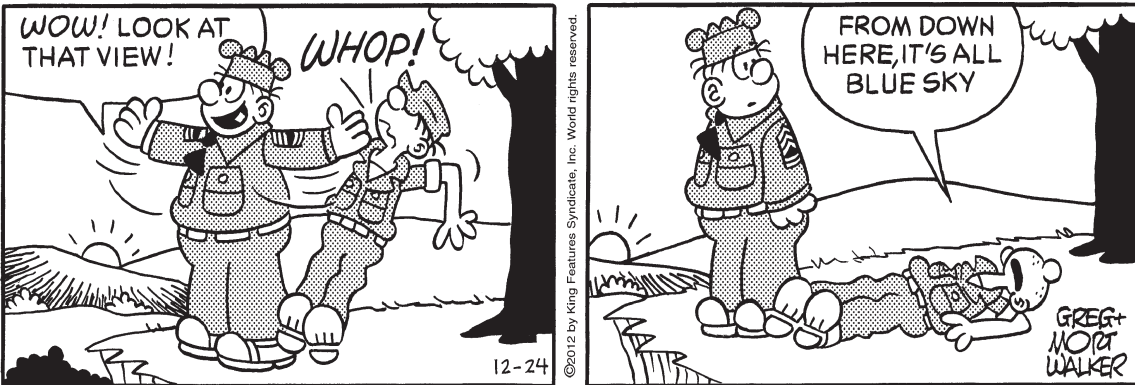


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



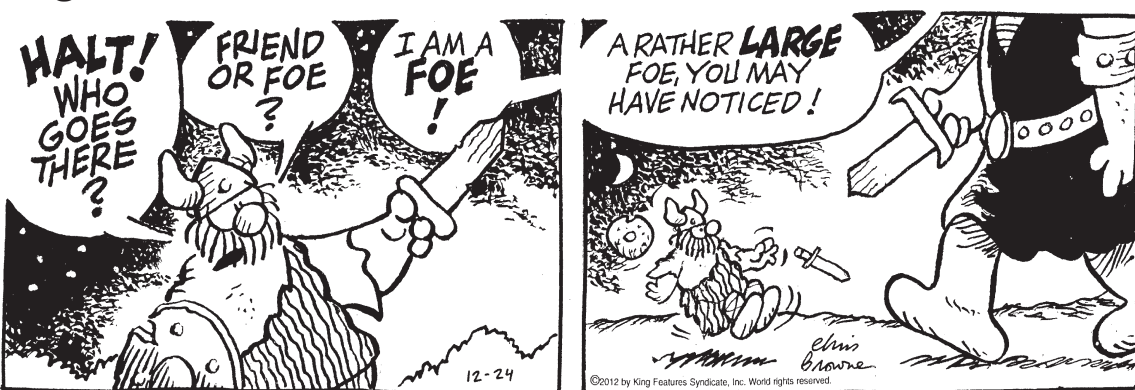
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



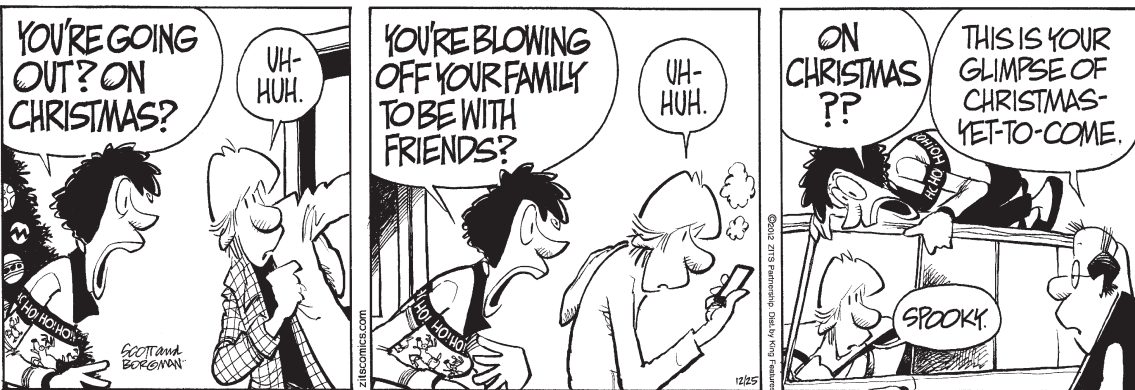
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



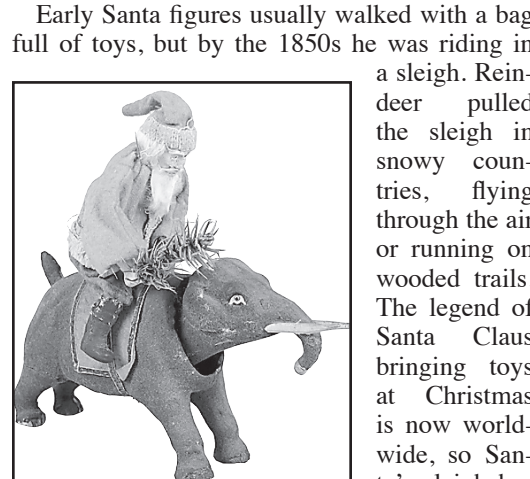
Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Terry Kovel
• Antiques and Collecting

Santa's looks evolve over time

Santa Claus has changed in appearance throughout the centuries. At first he was St. Nicolas, a tall thin man with a beard. In 1823 the famous poem "The Night Before Christmas" was published. It describes a jolly little man who was small enough to slide down a chimney.



Early Santa figures usually walked with a bag full of toys, but by the 1850s he was riding in a sleigh. Reindeer pulled the sleigh in snowy countries, flying through the air or running on wooded trails. The legend of Santa Claus bringing toys at Christmas is now worldwide, so Santa's sleigh has been changed to suit different cultures and weather.

A child in a tropical climate probably wouldn't recognize a sleigh or reindeer. Vintage pictures, figures, candy containers and even ornaments can be found with Santa riding more modern vehicles. Horses replaced reindeer. Airplanes, trains, cars and even airplanes replaced sleigh and reindeer. Toys are carried in a bag or box. There are even candy containers shaped like a baby elephant with a large Santa riding on his back. Some containers, known as "noddors," depict an elephant with a head that bobs up and down. They are favorites of Christmas collectors. The noddors, most made in Germany in the 1930s, sell for about \$700.

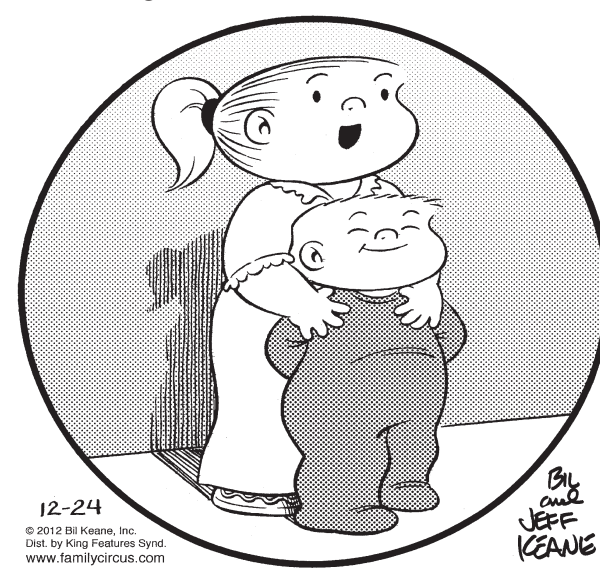
Q: I have a tapered jar with printing on the bottom that has to be read from the inside out. It says "No. 72, Pat. in U.S., Dec. 22, 1903, July 17, 1906, M 29." It's 4 inches high, 2 1/2 inches wide at the top and 2 inches wide at the bottom. The top is grooved, as though it was meant to screw into something.

A: Your jar was part of an old Arcade wall-mounted coffee grinder. There were three parts to the grinder. A different glass jar at the top held the coffee beans and the middle part ground them. The ground coffee emptied into your jar, which screwed into the bottom of the grinder. We found the answer by checking the patent numbers.

Tip: Some people say you can shine the chrome on a 1940s toaster with club soda or lemon juice.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★
12/24
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.

Cryptoquip

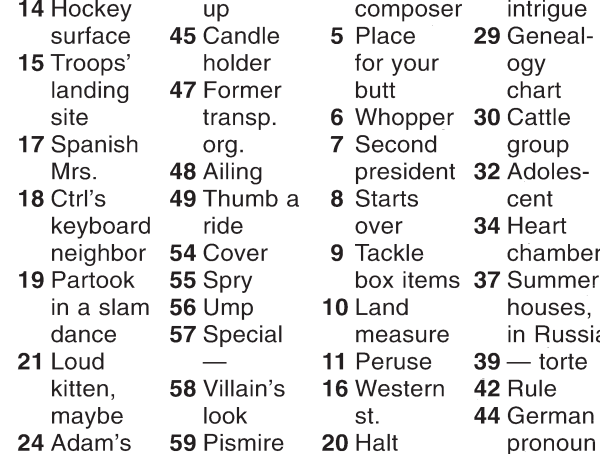
IKJWWRI WLJWMEJK WMEV
JPMSQ J KRQQL NLKMF FBM
LJQW KJXP: "R'X VLQRE"
XSQQME NMH IBHRWQXJW."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESSES WHITE AND BUCKLEY HIT THE SACK AT NIGHT, ONE WOULD THINK THEY GO BETTY-BYE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals M

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Fetch
4 Cheek-related
9 Distant
12 Exist
13 Remark to the audience
14 Hockey surface
15 Troops' landing site
17 Spanish Mrs.
18 Ctrl's keyboard neighbor
19 Partook in a slam dance
21 Loud kitten, maybe
24 Adam's third son
25 "Entourage" role
26 Uncooked
28 Reality, old-style
31 Loser to Barack
33 Verily
35 Skin opening
36 Needed liniment
- DOWN**
38 Urban transport
40 Lead-in to "plop" or "plunk"
41 Get wind of
43 Pushed up
45 Candle holder
47 Former transp. org.
48 Ailing
49 Thumb a ride
54 Cover
55 Spry
56 Ump
57 Special
58 Villain's look
59 Pismire
- ONE OF THE THREE BEARS**
2 Before
3 Afternoon drink
4 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
5 Place for your butt
6 Whopper
7 Second president
8 Starts over
9 Tackle box items
10 Land measure
11 Peruse
16 Western st.
20 Halt
- NOVELIST**
22 Ambler
23 Keeps (from)
27 Symbol of intrigue
29 Genealogy chart
30 Cattle group
32 Adolescent
34 Heart chamber
37 Summer houses, in Russia
39 — torte
42 Rule
44 German pronoun
45 Missile shelter
46 Paper holder
50 Dead heat
51 Playwright Levin
52 Barbie's companion
53 Small newt



Saturday's answer 12-24

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
54			55						56	
57			58						59	

Bridge • Steve Becker

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.
NORTH: ♠KQ842, ♥Q97, ♦—, ♣A10642
WEST: ♠J75, ♥652, ♦Q5, ♣KQJ53
EAST: ♠A10963, ♥4, ♦AK1094, ♣98
SOUTH: ♠—, ♥AKJ1083, ♦J87632, ♣7
The bidding: West Pass, North 1♣, East 1♠, South 2♥; West 2♠, North Pass, East 4♠, South 5♥; West Pass, North Pass, East Dble, South Pass; West Pass, North Reddle, East Pass, South Pass.
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Famous Hand
The top players play well, but they don't play perfectly. Bridge is too tough a game for anyone to play without occasionally making a mistake, so experts are judged largely by their infrequency of error.

This deal was played in 1955 in a match between Great Britain and the United States. British star Terence Reese was seated North when the bidding unfolded as shown. When East bid four spades, Reese had the opponents right where he wanted them, but one can hardly blame South, Boris Schapiro, for continuing on to five hearts. Reese then redoubled East's double, no doubt partly in the hope that one of the opponents might reconsider and retreat to five spades.

The American West led the king of clubs. Declarer won with the ace and played the king of spades, covered by East with the ace and ruffed. Schapiro then made 11 tricks easily, ruffing three diamonds in dummy and discarding one on the queen of spades. He lost two diamond tricks at the end, but made five hearts redoubled for a score of 1,250 points (including 100 honors).

The outcome would have been different if West had chosen a trump as his opening lead. In that case, Schapiro would have gone down one, and the Americans would have been 1,650 points better off!

At the other table, with the U.S. North-South, the bidding went:

West Pass, North 1♣, East 1♠, South 2♥; West 2♠, North 3♥, East 3♠, South 4♠; West Pass, North 5♣, East Pass, South 5♥.

Here, too, West did not lead a trump, and declarer finished with 11 tricks. A good case can be made for a trump lead by West at either table, but the fact remains that neither West came up with the killing lead.

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