

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

Irons evolved through history

Permanent-press fabrics have relieved most households of the need to iron clothing. In past centuries, ironing was an almost daily duty of a woman in the home. Before about the 10th century, cloth was ironed with smooth wooden or glass pieces and a pounding stick. Heat was not used until the 16th century in Europe. By then, pressing irons were metal pans with long handles. A piece of charcoal was put in the pan to heat the bottom and the heated pan was rubbed over the cloth. This crude iron was gradually improved. Charcoal was replaced by a heated iron rod to avoid the charcoal ashes that sometimes fell on the cloth. Next came special box irons with handles and pointed fronts. They were shaped like the electric and steam irons used today. Soon a solid piece of iron, also in today's familiar shape, was made to put on the stove to heat, then quickly used to heat and smooth cloth. By the turn of the 20th century, irons were heated by liquid gas, alcohol, gasoline or electricity. Unfortunately, some of the liquid-fueled irons blew up. The electric iron was patented in 1882, but few homes had electricity back then. So the electric iron was not in general use until about 1915. Since then, irons have been improved with the addition of thermostats that control heat and steam. Some even became cordless and could fold up to go with travelers. All types of old ironing sticks, mangling boards and irons are collected today. Nineteenth- and unusual 20th-century examples sell for hundreds of dollars. In the 1950s, an early Chinese iron that looks like a small, ornate cooking pot with a handle was copied and used as a portable ashtray. These mid-20th-century copies sell for about \$30 today. A genuine antique Chinese iron is worth hundreds of dollars.

Q: Recently I purchased five matching maple side chairs with "Mottville, N.Y." stamped on the back of the top slat of each chair. Two of the chairs are stamped "F. Sinclair" under "Mottville," while the other three are stamped "Union Chair Works." I've cleaned up the chairs and given them new woven seats. Please tell me the approximate age and value of the chairs, and explain the different marks.

A: The Union Chair Works factory was built in Mottville in 1866, although some records say the founding of the company dates back to 1859. The company's owners, Joseph Hubbard and Francis A. Sinclair, advertised their furniture under the brand name "Common Sense" and eventually made chairs, rockers, tables and settees. The company operated at least into the 1880s, and perhaps into the early 1900s. If all you had to do to get the chairs into tiptop shape was clean them and replace the woven seats, the set could sell for more than \$500.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 7 5
♥ 10 7 6
♦ K J 10 2
♣ K Q
WEST
♠ 10 9
♥ A K J 4 2
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ 6 3
EAST
♠ K Q 6 4 2
♥ 3
♦ 7 3
♣ J 10 7 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — ten of spades.

Famous Hand

This deal was played many years ago in a tournament in Vienna. It features an exceptional defensive play by West, who laid a clever trap for declarer and then had the satisfaction of watching him fall right into it.

After bidding all four suits at the one-level, North-South arrived at three notrump. West decided that the best hope to defeat the contract was to find his partner with strength behind dummy's spades. So he led the spade ten, which declarer ducked to East's queen. East then shifted to a low club, taken by dummy's queen.

South had eight tricks — a spade, four diamonds and three clubs — and concluded that the best chance for a ninth lay in developing a heart trick. So at trick three, he led the ten of hearts from dummy, on which East played the three and South the five. But instead of taking the trick with the jack, West followed smoothly with the deuce!

This apparent stroke of good fortune had the desired effect on South. Convinced that East must have the jack of hearts, declarer led another heart toward his Q-9-8 in an attempt to score an overtrick.

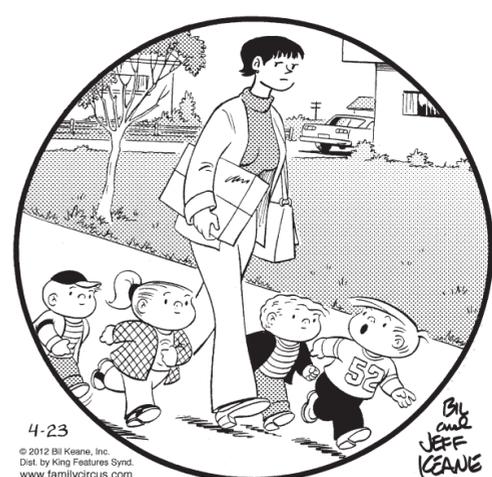
The second heart lead met with a cordial reception from West, who proceeded to cash four heart tricks for down one. His brilliant duck of the first heart trick had lured a greedy South down the road to disaster.

Of course, declarer could have romped home with nine tricks after the ten of hearts held. But how many players would be able to resist the temptation to try for an extra trick once the heart jack was "proven" to be with East?

As for West, had he taken the first heart trick, South could not have been stopped from making the contract.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



4-23
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Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★ 4/23

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.

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

Cryptoquip

X V E A W V K K G L V M A S V A
B N Q L T D L A N V K A S N C Q W X A
E T H H K N Q, L T X ' K K B Q T H V H K G
A N L A X C G V L V B X N - M X A D N L L.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU HAD A

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHENEVER A LETTER FLOURISH IS INVENTED, ONE COULD ANNOUNCE "THERE'S A NEW SERIF IN TOWN."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
1 Category
4 Auto-mobile
7 Wield a cleaver
11 Carry on
13 One's years
14 Carry on
15 Eastern potentate
16 Scrooge's cry
17 Open slightly
18 Beelzebub
20 Grate
22 Tiny veggie
24 Cafe
28 Frisbee material
32 Trembled
33 Apiece
34 One of the Seven Dwarfs
36 Smell
37 Group character
39 Missile launcher
41 Mexican cactus
43 Humor
44 New-comer
- DOWN**
3 Make with yarn
4 Taxi
5 Culture medium
6 Detox
7 Some casino patrons
8 Muslim pilgrim-age
9 Eggs
10 Apiece
12 They use clay pigeons
19 Trawler need
21 Bro's counter-part
23 Help
25 Agenda heading
26 Chess piece
27 Gumbo ingredient
28 Sound from a chick
29 Tardy
30 Sore
31 Corn on the —
35 Crow's call
38 Pigpen
40 Goose egg
42 Burst, volcano-style
45 Norway's capital
47 Columbus' home
48 Tide type
49 Sweet potatoes' kin
50 "— only a paper moon, ..."
51 Chips' go-with
52 Meadow
54 Sailor's assent

Saturday's answer 4-23

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	

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	R	E	S	C	A	D	A	R	T
A	B	I	D	E	A	B	A	N	E	W
O	C	H	E	R	B	E	Y	O	N	C
	A	N	I	M	A	L	M	U	T	E
O	W	N	F	A	N	L	E	M	O	N
R	A	N	I	C	A	M	E	L		
B	R	A	N	D	O	A	D	E	S	T
			D	I	N	A	H	T	H	
A	E	R	I	E	G	E	L	A	M	P
D	R	U	G	S	H	R	I	N	K	
M	A	D	O	N	N	A	B	O	I	S
A	T	E	B	A	S	R	E	L	A	T
N	O	R	A	P	T	R	E	L	A	T