

Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



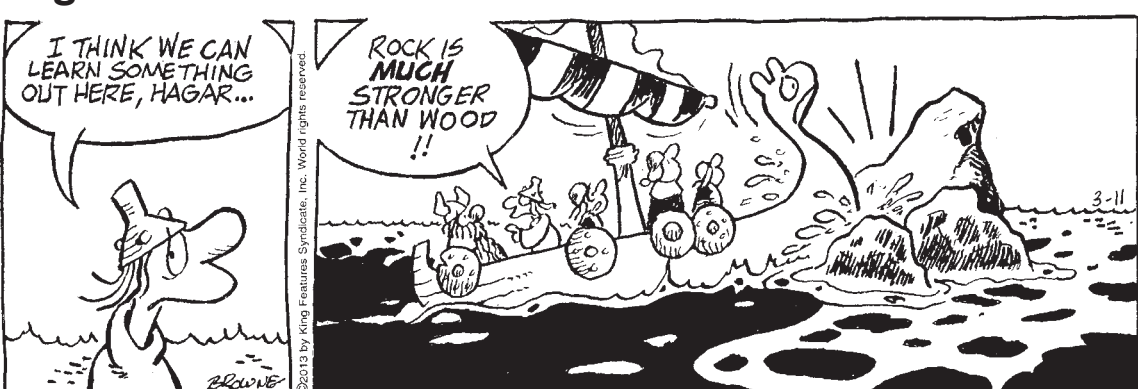
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



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

Fused glass art revisits ancients

Frances and Michael Higgins both went to art school, taught art and created art before they met at the Chicago Institute of Design. They were married in 1948. The couple decided to open their own studio to make fused (not blown) glass, a technique used in ancient times.

Their pieces were marked "Higgins" to represent both artists. Their glass was like a glass sandwich - one piece coated with enamel decoration, the other placed on top and heated until both pieces were fused together. Their work created a new type of colorful, well-designed glass that immediately became popular in gift shops.

Each of the artists had a personal style. Frances liked to hand-paint designs; Michael used small pieces of glass to make designs. Michael was born in England in 1908 and died in 1999. Frances, born in 1912, was still working when she died in 2004. Higgins Glass Studio of Riverside, Ill., continues the couple's tradition of making fused glass. It is run by artists trained by Michael and Frances.

Vintage Higgins pieces are popular today with collectors, but because the studio still makes glass for department stores and gift shops, pieces can be found for moderate prices. The work is unique and recognized as artistic, yet early pieces are undervalued by both museums and collectors.

Q: My ceramic angelfish is a little over an inch high. It's gray with a blue base and is embossed on the bottom "Wade, England." When was it made?

A: The Wade Group of Potteries was founded in 1810 near Burslem, Staffordshire, England. Your fish is one of the "Wade Whimsies," little figurines no more than 2 1/8 inches tall. More than 100 different Whimsies were made. The first were little animal figurines, sold from 1954 to 1958 in sets of five or four to a box.

Ten different sets were made. During the 1960s, Whimsies were made only as promotional items. Best-known are the figurines given away with Red Rose Tea and other products.

Another 12 sets of animal figurines were made from 1971 to 1984. Your angelfish is part of Set Nine, made in 1978 as part of the second series of Whimsies.

Whimsies are popular with children and teenage collectors. Each Whimsy sells for about \$5 to \$15.

Q: I bought a house built in the 1890s, and when I renovated the kitchen I found a jug inside a wall. No telling how long it had been there. It's 8 inches high and still has part of the label, which reads "Mohawk Green Creme de Menthe, Made & Bottled by Mohawk Liqueur Corporation, Detroit, Michigan." I would like to know if the company is still in business.

A: Mohawk Liqueur Corp. was formed in 1933. In 1966 it was sold to 21 Brands, which became a subsidiary of Foremost-McKesson in 1970. Mohawk was in business until at least the 1980s.

Tip: To remove chewing gum from carpet or upholstery, put an ice cube in a zip-top plastic bag and set it on the gum. When the gum hardens, hit it with a hammer and it will break off.

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Bridge • Steve Becker

East dealer.
 Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
 ♠ K 2
 ♥ A 10 3 2
 ♦ A 10 9 4 2
 ♣ 10 7

WEST
 ♠ 10 9 6
 ♥ K J 9 5 4
 ♦ J 6 5 3
 ♣ 2

EAST
 ♠ Q 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 7 6
 ♦ K Q
 ♣ J 6 5 3

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 5
 ♥ Q 8
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ A K Q 9 8 4

The bidding:
 East Pass South Pass West Pass North 1♦
 Pass 1♣ Pass 3♥
 Pass 3NT Pass 4♥
 Pass 6♣
 Opening lead — five of hearts.

Famous Hand

It's always darkest before the dawn, the old saying goes, and often a declarer reaches a dark point during the early play that precedes his ultimate step toward victory.

Consider this deal from the final round of the 1977 world team championship. The bidding shown occurred when Billy Eisenberg, a member of the eventually victorious American team, held the South cards.

West did not have a clear-cut opening lead, and, after great thought, he elected to lead the five of hearts. This did not work out well when Eisenberg won the trick with the eight, cashed the K-A of spades and ruffed the jack of spades in dummy.

Eisenberg next played the A-K of trumps, and when West showed out, it appeared South would eventually have to lose a diamond trick and a trump trick. But Eisenberg, never one to give up without a fight, found a way to make the slam anyway.

He abandoned further trump leads and instead proceeded to set the stage for a trump coup. The queen of hearts was led and covered by the king and ace, after which Eisenberg ruffed a heart, played a diamond to the ace and ruffed another heart. This left him with just three cards -- the Q-9 of trumps and the eight of diamonds and the king of diamonds.

Eisenberg now exited with the eight of diamonds, not caring in the slightest whether East or West won the trick. In either case he was certain to score the last two tricks with the Q-9 of trumps and so make the slam.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



"I hope you remembered to give Daddy a note sayin' why he was absent from work."

Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★

3/11

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

Cryptoquip

SI S XOUOEM HCMJOX, MJSM

ECUMTXESP ZPNVEA VEIOUM

QOZVEVMOPN JSI S PCM CZ

JTEAXN HCMJI MC ZOOQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE SEAFOOD MARKET SELLS FISH OF THE RAY FAMILY AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES. WHAT CHEAP SKATES!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals O

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
 1 Final bio
 5 Enervate
 8 Venomous
 12 Hawaii's capital
 14 Onetime head of Iran
 15 "What Not to Wear" specialty
 16 Greek vowel
 17 "— the season to be jolly"
 18 Improvised musically
 20 Pacific or Atlantic
 23 Presidential "no"
 24 Drink all at once
 25 Time between connecting flights
 28 Pitch
 29 Lively dance
 30 Spot on a domino
- DOWN**
 32 Hollow pastry
 34 Grown-up nits
 35 Rewrite, maybe
 36 Luxury boat
 37 Forcible restraint
 40 A billion years
 41 Acknowledge
 42 Morning-after ailment
 47 Viral video, e.g.
 48 Imagine in detail
 49 Scruff
 50 24 hours
 51 Grandson of Eve
- 19 On**
 21 Fellow
 22 Franc snake replacement
 23 Man's man
 25 Bestowed profusely
 26 Grand tale
 27 Opulent
 29 Pantheon group
 31 Favorite
 33 Paul Reubens' character
 34 Woolly buddy
 37 Rhett's shocking word
 38 Eye layer
 39 Cavort
 40 A deadly sin
 43 Literary collection
 44 Moving truck
 45 Id counterpart
 46 Notes between dos and mis

Saturday's answer 3-11

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		