

BOTTOM ..





LOOKS LIKE A

SEAL.

OUR HOUSE.

## **Blondie** • Chic Young





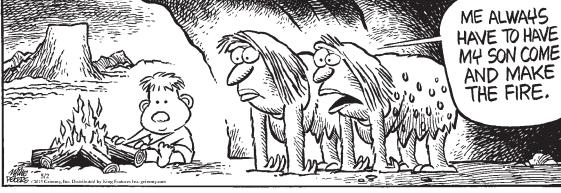


Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne





**Mother Goose and Grimm** • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard





Patrick Roberts Todd the Dinosaur







**Zits** • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

GYM SHORTS,

SWEATSHIRT,

FLIP-FLOPS

AND WOOL

SOCKS



UM, WHAT ARE

YOU WEARING?











## Terry Kovel

Antiques and Collecting

# Inkstand design is early souvenir

Q: Our grandmother left us an inkstand that has been in the family for more than 80 years. It's in the shape of a stag's head with long antlers that form a pen rest. The words "Niagara Falls" are on the top of the stag's

A pressed glass inkwell sits right behind the head on a base that looks like a pile of leaves and acorns. The antlers are 5 1/2 inches high, and the inkstand is about 6 by 4 1/2 inches. What can you tell us?

A: Your inkstand is a well-known American design that dates from the early 1900s. We have seen it without any notation on the stag's head, but it was probably sold as a souvenir at many tourist sites. The head, base and antlers have been made in various colors and metals. Your inkstand, depending on its condition, could sell for more than \$100.

Q: My husband inherited a French mantel clock from his father. It's made of what looks like black marble with bronze columns and is shaped like a Greek building. Its face is porcelain. The mark on the back is a circle with the words "Medaille d'Argent" and "Vincenti & Cie 1855." The clock is 16 1/2 inches tall by 15 1/2 inches wide and 6 1/4 inches deep. It's very heavy. Please tell us how to figure out how old it is and what it's worth.

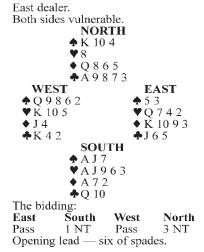
A: Vincenti & Cie (Vincenti & Co.) was a Paris clockmaker founded before 1834 by Jean Vincenti. It went out of business in about 1870. The mark on your clock indicates that the company won a silver medal (medaille d'argent) at the 1855 Universal Exposition in Paris – which means your clock was made after 1855. Vincenti & Cie clocks sell for prices from the low hundreds into the tens of thousands. An expert has to look at your clock in person and can estimate its age by its works. The clockcase and weight make us think it could be quite valuable if it works or can be easily made to work.

Q: I inherited a plate from my aunt, who was an antiques dealer in the 1940s and '50s. The plate is octagonal and has an allover chintz pattern of flowers, leaves and berries. The bottom of the plate has a printed mark with a crown over the words "Crown Ducal Ware, England." Can you tell me how old the plate is? Is it valuable?

A: The trade name "Crown Ducal" was first used in 1916 by A.G. Richardson and Co. of Tunstall, England. The mark on your plate was used beginning in about 1925. The company began working in Tunstall in 1915 and in nearby Cobridge in 1934. A.G. Richardson was bought by Wedgwood in 1974. Chintz-pattern dishes have fallen in price throughout the past few years. Your plate is worth about \$50.

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#### Bridge • Steve Becker



#### **Against the Grain**

On rare occasions, both the declarer and a defender must make plays that are completely contrary to normal procedure. Today's deal provides an example of this unusual happenstance.

West led the six of spades against three notrump, and declarer saw immediately that his best route to nine tricks was to try to score four club tricks. This could be achieved against several different lies of the opposing clubs, but even if one of these existed, there might well be an entry problem later in the play.

Anticipating this problem, declarer played low from dummy at trick one and, after East followed low, won the trick with the ace! The purpose of this seemingly extravagant play was to turn dummy's ten of spades into an additional entry.

South next led the queen of clubs, covered by the king and ace. Clubs were continued, and, just as declarer expected, the ten won the trick.

This was where South's play at trick one came home to roost. South led a low spade toward dummy and, after West followed low, finessed the ten. The jack of clubs was then driven out. With the king of spades as an entry to dummy, declarer now had nine tricks: three spades, four clubs, a heart and a diamond.

However, West could have thwarted South's plan by making an unusual play of his own when declarer led a low spade toward dummy's K-10. Had he put up the queen, he would have blocked the suit and denied South a second spade entry to dummy, after which the clubs could not be utilized. The play of the queen violates the age-old principle of "second-hand low," but it lays declarer low nevertheless.

Note further that declarer cannot circumvent this entry-killing play by leading the jack of spades instead, hoping West will play the queen. In that case, West violates a different rule by refusing to cover an honor with an honor, and South again goes down to defeat.

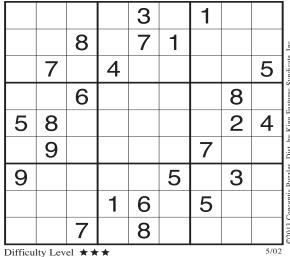
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## Family Circus • Bil Keane



'Do they have any vegetables that are LESS good for me?'

#### Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green



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.

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1	9	4	5	3	2	8	6	7
2	3	8	7	6	1	9	4	5
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7	2	3	6	5	8	4	9	1
8	6	1	4	7	9	5	2	3
4	5	9	1	2	3	6	7	8
9	1	2	3	4	5	7	8	6
5	8	7	2	9	6	1	3	4
3	4	6	8	1	7	2	5	9
Difficu	lty Lev	el ★★	*					5/

#### Cryptoquip

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UMPFS, WZQQS ZOCSWO

NOWWOKS SKOOS, FO BWBOUUA

VFTTWQW VQUUT HBNNMCP. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IT COULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSUME THIS HORRIBLE WATERY PORRIDGE. IT'S WAY TOO GRUELING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals H

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correc-

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24 Equitable

26 St. Louis

27 Creche

28 Annov-

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35 Cookie

38 Ballerina

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Three	40 Surround	fish
Bears	41 Attach-	3 Graceful
12 Admitting	ments	woman
cus-	45 Blunder	4 Cold
tomers	47 Rowing	symptom

13 Time of vour life? 49 Help in 14 Change 50 Padlock for a five 15 Draped dress 51 Oilfield

16 Sailor 17 Western state 18 Deceptive 20 Melody 22 Lengthwise,

Across 26 In spades 55 Sur-29 Actress Farrow 30 Mai -(cocktail)

to 16-

31 Exceptional 32 Corral 33 Check 34 Film

21 Actress Solution time: 25 mins.

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