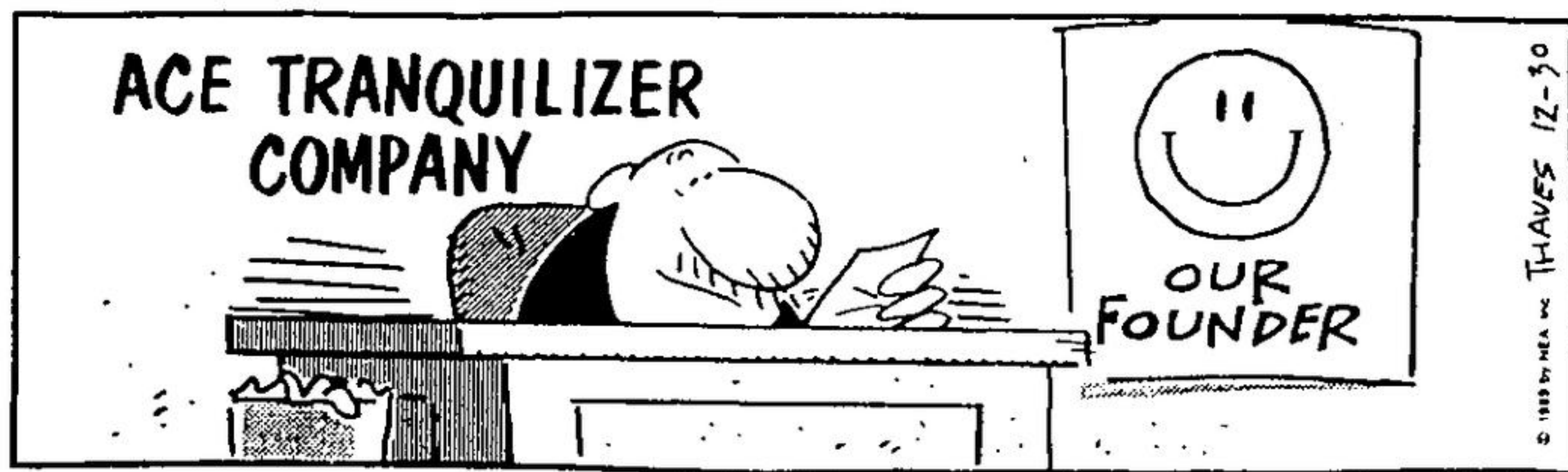


FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



ARLO & JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



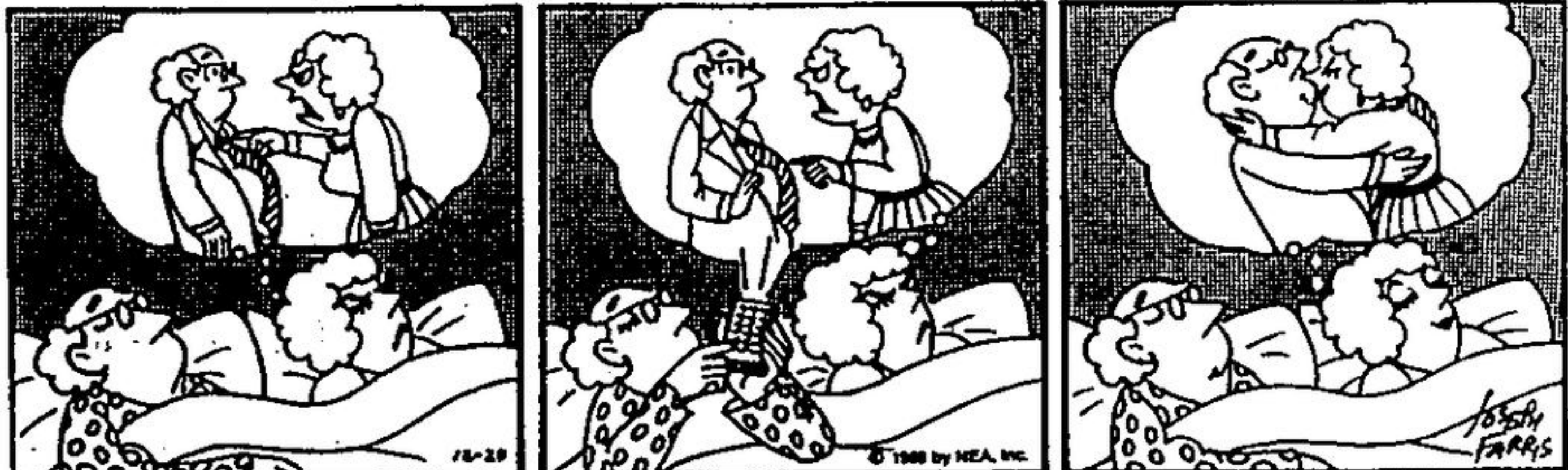
EK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli



PHIPPS™ by Joseph Farris



BORN LOSER® by Art and Chip Sansom



Comic Page

ASTRO-GRAPH



BERNICE BEDE OSOL

BRIDGE



JAMES JACOBY



Your Birthday

Some extremely lucky breaks may come your way in the year ahead through several valuable contacts you've already established. Be sure to give your benefactors the gratitude they'll deserve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't let someone whose judgment you mistrust make decisions today that affect you as well as him/her. If there is any deciding to do, be sure you're present to help do it. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Be on guard today or else you might be burdened with a mess that was made by another. If this occurs it will put you in a bad frame of mind for the rest of the day.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) The thoughtless behavior of a friend could produce some changes in your plans today that will have you doing not what you intended or desired. Don't let yourself be manipulated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today your opinions may be diametrically opposed to those of most of your associates. Re-think your positions, because you might be the one who is out of step.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your attention span might not be up to par today and you could have a problem trying to focus on mental tasks. Have someone recheck your work if it's of a critical nature.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're still not out of the woods where your financial affairs are concerned, so be prudent in the management of your resources. Don't buy what you can't afford.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) There's a possibility you might feel luckier than you actually are today and this could cause you to make a miscalculation that affects others as well as yourself. Weigh your decisions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your duties and responsibilities will not take care of themselves today, even though you may be inclined to believe they will. If you don't do it, it's not going to get done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your pocketbook is vulnerable to losses today, especially where gambles or financial risks are concerned. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You're in a good achievement cycle, provided you do not take things for granted. In order to succeed, you must follow everything through to completion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Watch what you say or do today, because a thoughtless remark or an impulsive action could have you wishing you were capable of vanishing at will.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Try to shy away from being either a borrower or a lender today. These are two critical areas where possible problems could erupt.

NORTH 12-30-89

♦ A K 6 2
♦ A 6 3
♦ J 9 4
♦ Q 6 3

WEST
♦ 7
♥ K J 10 8
♦ A K Q 6 3
♦ A J 10

EAST
♦ 9 4 3
♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ 8
♦ 9 8 5 4 2

SOUTH
♦ Q J 10 8 5
♦ Q 7
♦ 10 7 5 2
♦ K 7

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: West

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♦	Pass	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Redbl.	2 ♦
	Pass	3 ♦	All pass

Opening lead: ♦ K

Trumping partner's ace

By James Jacoby

North was conservative to stay out of the auction when West bid one diamond. Many players would make a takeout double, despite the balanced distribution. However, when South reopened with one spade, North compensated for his previous timidity by redoubling and then jumping to three spades. South was happy to pass.

The defense was unusual in that East, with no high cards, trumped his partner's trick to set the contract. West led K-Q and ace of diamonds. East ruffed the diamond ace and led back a heart. Declarer now had to lose a heart and the club ace for down one. Of course West would have been wise to lead a low diamond at the third trick.

What would have happened if East had let West win the third diamond? West would continue with a fourth diamond, but declarer would ruff with a high honor in dummy. Next would come two high spades ending in the South hand, followed by a low club away from the king. West could do no better than duck, and dummy's queen would win. South would then run the rest of his trumps. West would come down to three cards. If he kept the king of hearts guarded, he would have to blank the club ace. So declarer would play a club and West would have to lead away from the heart king. If he kept the club ace protected, he would have to blank the heart king, and declarer could play heart ace and the good heart queen. That would be a nice play. Shame on East for taking away declarer's opportunity to play so well!

James Jacoby's books "Jacoby on Bridge" and "Jacoby on Card Games" (written with his father, the late Oswald Jacoby) are now available at bookstores. Both are published by Pharos Books.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: L equals C.

' R P V R P G Q I G B M ' F
O T H G F O T F V R F F V G
Y R F I P Q T M U G E
T Y I W F R F , Z I W ' Q
Y G F F G E L E G T F G
R F . - B R E
T M F O I M Z K W T Z V G .

SOLUTION: "If he doesn't have the bill of lading, you'd better create it." - St. Ambrose