



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

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AMAZING DAYS OF MAY

Smorgasbord XII

number 107

May 7, 2016

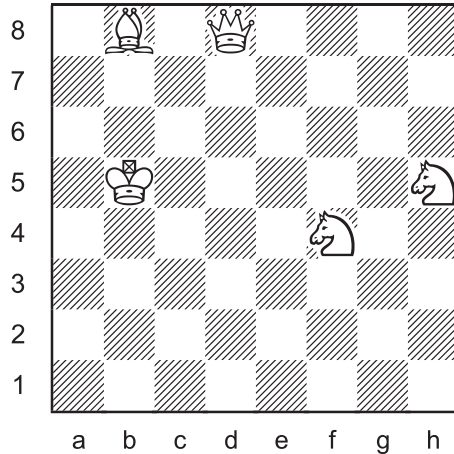
Spring is in the air. Cafe patios are open once again. The perfect occasion for a chess smorgasbord.

Our side theme is *famous Mays*. The featured puzzles are a triple loyd, a proof game, rook domination, and of course, a maze.



For more problems like any of those on this week's menu, see the *Puzzling Side* archives.

Triple Loyd 50



Place the black king on the board so that:

- A. Black is in checkmate.
- B. Black is in stalemate.
- C. White has a mate in 1.

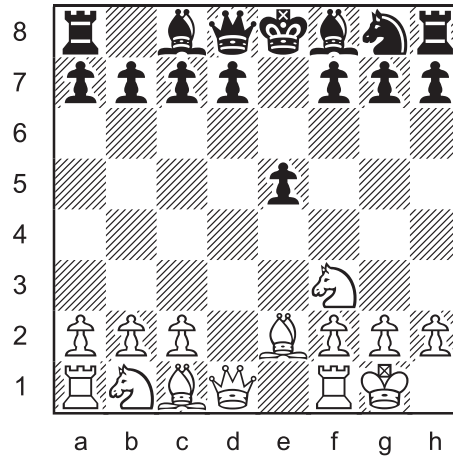
Without a doubt, the most famous May of all is Mae West. Actress and playwright Mary Jane West (1893-1980) was born in New York City. A star of vaudeville as a child, she later conquered the world on the silver screen. Known for her wit as well as her looks, she was often at odds with censors over her liberal views of feminine freedom.



Mae West

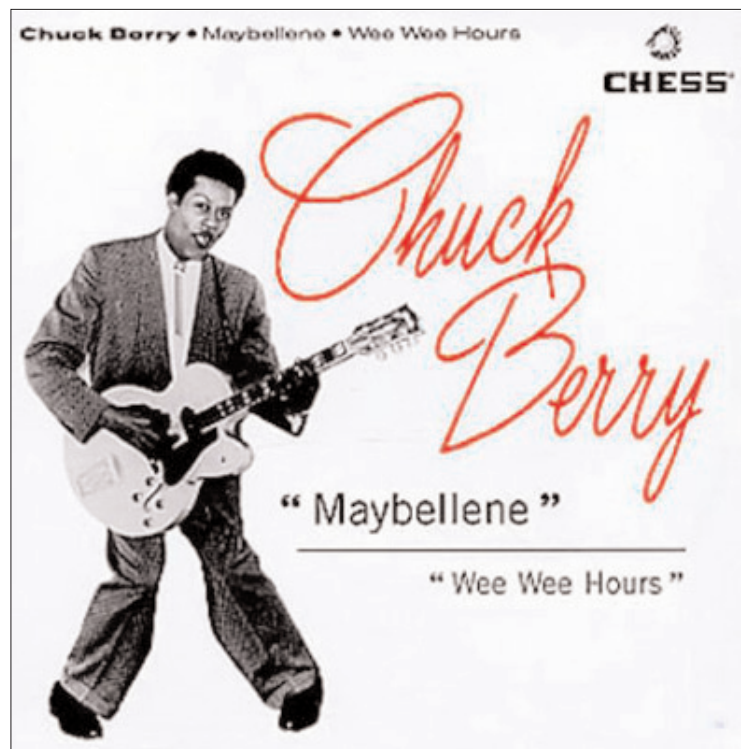
"The score never interested me, only the game."

Longer Proof Game 16 (5.0 moves)



This position was reached after Black's fifth turn. What were the moves?

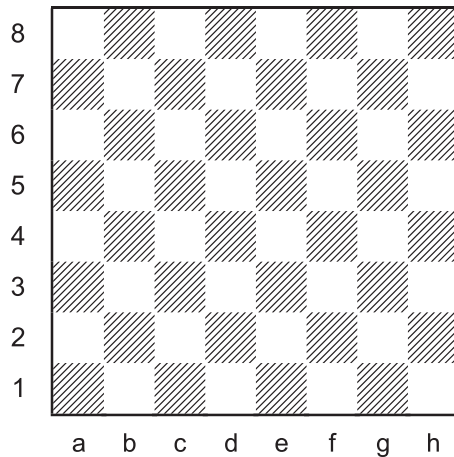
One of the earliest examples of rock 'n' roll was the 1955 Chuck Berry hit *Maybellene*. Released by Chess Records, with Willie Dixon on bass, the song asks the musical question, "Maybellene, why can't you be true?"



Another quote by Mae West may serve as a reasonable answer.

"I'll try anything once, twice if I like it, three times to make sure."

Eight Rook Double Dominator



Place eight rooks on the board so that every empty square is attacked twice.

How many solutions are there?

Guarded Rooks Double Dominator

Place the minimum number of rooks on the board so that every empty square is attacked twice and every rook is guarded at least once.

The solution may be one less than expected.

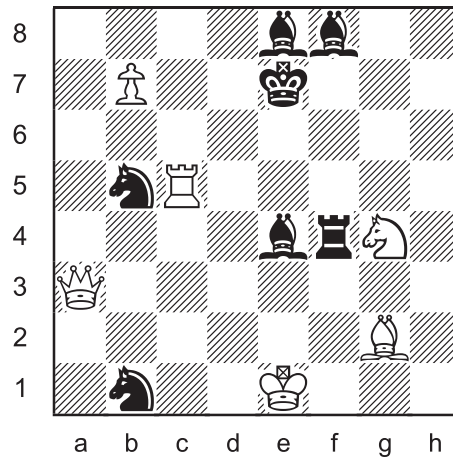


The Mayflower At Sea Granville Perkins

In 1620, the *Mayflower* crossed the Atlantic in 66 days. Heading for Virginia in stormy seas, they landed in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. According to historians, some passengers passed the time playing chess. When weather permitted.

The next puzzle is a *Toronto style* chess maze. Captures are not allowed. For more details, see the instructions below (and column 69).

Chess Maze 14



Pawn Maze

Which kind of promoted piece gets through the maze fastest?
Rook, bishop, or knight?

Only the white pawn moves. When it reaches the last rank, it may become a rook, bishop, or knight. But not a queen. After the promotion, only the promoted piece moves. Find the shortest path to capture the black king, without taking any pieces or moving to a square attacked by a black piece. It is possible to go through the maze with a rook, bishop, or knight. Figure out which piece has the shortest path, and which the longest.



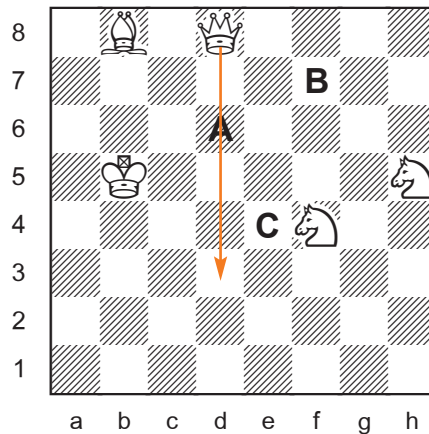
king: Charlie Chaplin, queen: Mae West, bishop: Groucho & Harpo Marx,
knight: W.C. Fields, rook: Laurel & Hardy, pawns: Keystone Cops

SOLUTIONS

Triple loyd 50, longer proof game 16, and maze 14 by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2016).

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

Triple Loyd 50



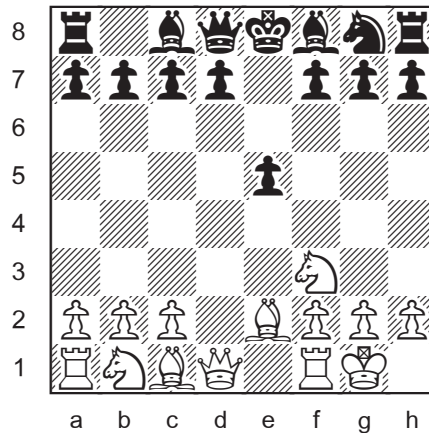
- A. Kd6#
- B. Kf7=
- C. Ke4 (Qd3#)

In part A, the double check by queen and bishop could legally occur by the promotion and discovery $cxd8=Q+$.



"Look your best. Who said love is blind?"

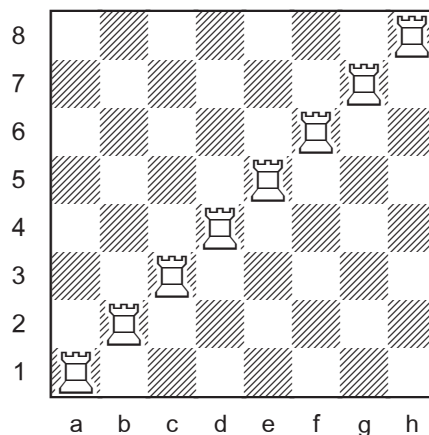
Longer Proof Game 16 (5.0 moves)



1.d3 Nc6 2.d4 Nxd4 3.Nf3 Nxe2 4.Bxe2 e6 5.0-0 e5
Tempo moves by a pawn of each colour.



Eight Rook Double Dominator



All empty squares are attacked twice.

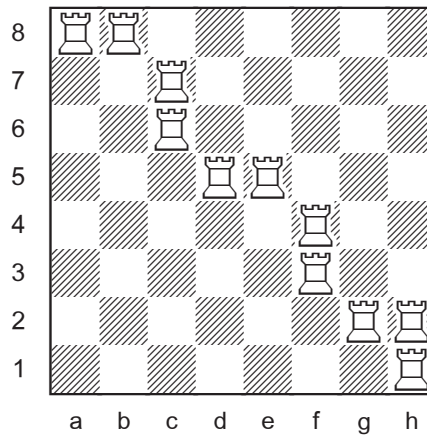
Any position in which no rook is guarded is a solution. In other words, any position with no rooks on the same file or rank. So the number of different solutions is “8 factorial” or 40,320.

$$8! = 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 40,320$$

Guarded Rooks Double Dominator

Alexander Soifer 2011

Colorado Mathematical Olympiad and Further Explorations

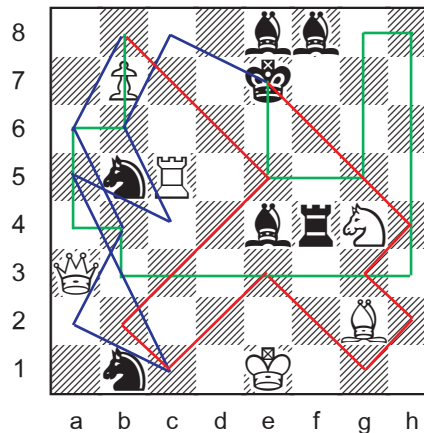


11 rooks

Every empty square is attacked twice
and every rook is guarded at least once.

There are many solutions with the minimum number of eleven rooks.

Chess Maze 14



A bishop is fastest. 10 moves.
b8=B-e5-b2-c1-e3-g1-h2-g3-h4xe7



A knight is middle of the road. 11 moves.
b8=N-a6-b4-a2-c1-b3-a5-c4-b6-c8xe7



A rook takes his time. 12 moves.
b8=R-b6-a6-a4-b4-b3-h3-h8-g8-g5-e5xe7

(A queen only needs 3 moves. b8=Q-e5xe7)



“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”

Mae West

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