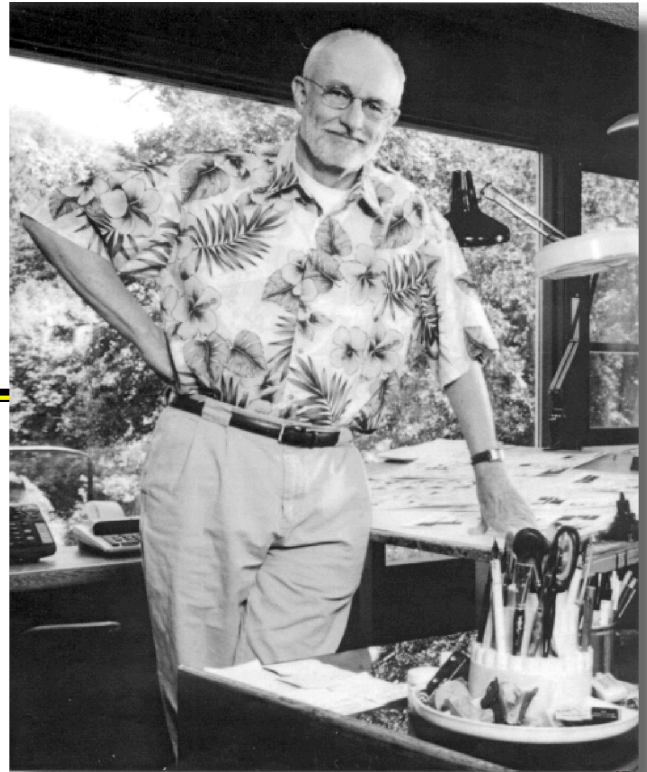


# RUSSELL MYERS

Cartoonist/Writer,  
Tulsa

**OKLAHOMA  
WRITER**

**OKLAHOMA  
ARTIST**



Russell Myers, creator of Broom Hilda, says his “overnight success” came after 15 years of failure. “I submitted my first strip for syndicate consideration when I was 16 years old and several others along the way,” he recalls.

“I actually--through diligent practice—refined the art of failure to an exact science,” he says. “I was living in Kansas City writing and illustrating greeting cards for Hallmark, and (on days off) I would take the 8 a.m. plane to New York City, set up appointments with about six of the major syndicates, have them all reject my current attempt at a comic strip in a single day, and be home by midnight. Practice makes perfect!”

Then he met Elliott Caplin, who was Al Capp’s brother and creator of several continuity strips, including “The Heart of Juliet Jones.” He sent Caplin six sample strips of Broom Hilda and Caplin sold it to a syndicate. “It all happened within a week. Go figure!” says Myers.

Myers was born in Pittsburgh, Kansas. He moved to Tulsa when his father, a college professor, became a member of the faculty at the University of Tulsa. He attended Will Rogers High School in Tulsa, with comics legend Archie Goodwin, and studied at the University of Tulsa.

Broom Hilda began publication April 19, 1970. His studio is located in Grants Pass, Oregon, overlooking the Rogue River.

His major influences were Chester Gould (Dick Tracy), Roy Crane (Captain Easy, Wash Tubbs) and Carl Barks (Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge). “After Broom Hilda got syndicated, I made a special effort to travel and meet them,” he notes.

He considers meeting Groucho Marx “one of the more interesting incidents” in his life. In one of his Broom Hilda cartoons, Irwin (the troll) imagines that South American gauchos resemble and act like the famed comedian. Groucho’s secretary called and asked if he could have the original drawing. Myers said they could if he would be allowed to deliver it in person to Groucho and meet him. At that time, Myers lived in Santa Barbara, California, about 90 miles away. Myers was invited for lunch. “I went there and was just thrilled to meet Groucho,” recalls Myers. “He had suffered a stroke but was still Groucho, just at a slower speed.”

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