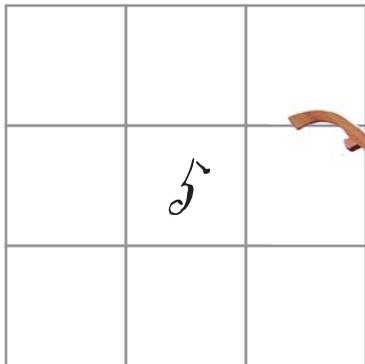




In a Tavern in East Luther

One rainy night in 1854, a clerk sat in a tavern in Monticello, studying the just completed survey of East Luther Township that he was to deliver to the Chief Surveyor's Office. After a while, and after several strong ales, he thought it might be interesting to erase some of the surveyor's work and renumber the nine lots in the southeastern corner of the township into a more entertaining – to him – arithmetical combination.



So he carefully inserted the numbers 1 to 9 into this nine-lot grid so that the sum of each vertical, horizontal and diagonal column grid would add up to exactly 15. He put the number 5 in the middle lot.

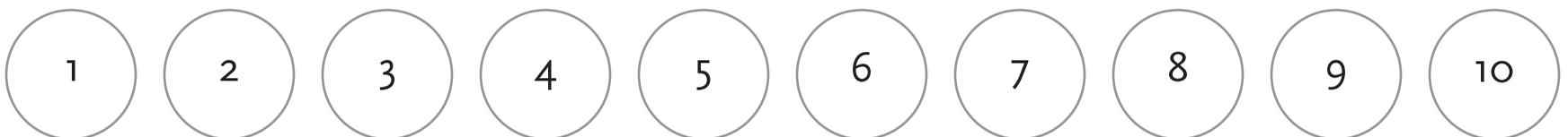
Can you figure out what numbers he put in the remaining lots?

(Fortunately for the clerk and for the settlers bound for East Luther, the next morning he rethought the exercise and restored the surveyor's original lot numbers before making his delivery.)



At the Alton Fair

In the space between the sheep pens and the rail where the calves were tethered, the Fair Board permitted several booths for games of chance. In one of these a booth operator charged people a dime to play a game in which ten pennies were set out in a single straight row like this.



To win the pennies and get his dime back a player had to rearrange the pennies into five doubles, or piles of two, according to these simple rules. Can you do it?

- To make a double, a penny must be jumped either right or left over **two** adjacent pennies. (e.g., penny **7** can jump left and become a double with **4**, or it can jump right and become a double with **10**.)
- Jumping over a double counts as jumping over two adjacent pennies (thus if **7** is atop **4**, then **3** can be jumped over them to double up with **5**).
- Doubles cannot be broken up (so if **7** is jumped to **4**, it stays there.)

Easy Conundrums for Speedy Solutions

Give yourself 5 points for each conundrum below you solve in ten seconds, 3 points for each one solved in thirty seconds, and 1 point for those that take you more than thirty seconds. A perfect score is 25. More than 15 is respectable. If you score 5 or fewer, it's probably not a good day to make important decisions!

A BODY IN MULMUR: High on a hill in Mulmur Township, in a car beside a graveled sideroad, a police officer finds the body of a man dead from a gunshot wound. There is a pistol in his hand and one empty shell casing on the floor. On the passenger seat, underneath his neatly folded jacket is an old fashioned cassette tape-recorder. The officer presses 'play' and hears a suicide message followed by a gunshot. Immediately he knows this is a homicide. *Why?*

ON THE CREDIT VALLEY LINE: After a really wild party two people are lying on the railroad tracks near Belfountain and do not hear a train coming. To make matters worse the train's headlights are not working; there is no overhead lighting and no moonlight. Yet the driver saw the couple in time to stop the train. *How come?*



IN A FIELD NEAR CREEMORE: A farmer works all day with a single furrow plough pulled by one horse. The last furrow is ploughed just as the sun sets. If it takes the horse 48 steps with each foot to complete one furrow, *how many hoofprints will be visible in that last furrow when the sun comes up the next morning?*



THE LOCKTON CONUNDRUM: The postmaster at Lockton offered a stick of toffee to schoolchildren who could tell him the number of errors in a note that read: "This sentance contains two misstakes." *How many errors?*



HERE IN THE HILLS: What occurs once in the month of June, once in July, twice in August and then disappears until January?

More from the Walls of S.S. #15

There are only 3 words in the English language that start with "dw." What are they? (For ears accustomed to modern slang, "dweeb" was not around when S.S. #15 was built!)



Crossing the Humber

On the eastern bank of the swiftly moving Humber River, at a point midway between what would one day become the communities of Palgrave and Bolton, six men, bedraggled, soaked wet and weary, huddled around a smouldering fire. Twice that day, they had encountered angry she-bears with cubs but the size of their group had discouraged any attack. Three of the men were members of the Home District Constabulary; the other three were prisoners, all brothers. Only a bit of daylight remained and all six were anxious to cross the river to find food and shelter.

The problem was that only a single, two-man canoe was available. No one dared swim the wide, flooded Humber, and hanging from the edge of the fragile craft was out of the question. They had to cross in the canoe one or two at a time. For special reasons the prisoners had no wish to escape, yet the officers did not want to be outnumbered at any time on either side of the river during the crossings.

How did the officers do it without ever being outnumbered?