

Producing Plate at the Foundry

Not long after soft aluminum alloy became available in the early years of the twentieth century, the McKitrick Foundry in Orangeville received an order for five thousand aluminum plates ten centimetres square and one millimetre thick.

The foundry was keen to fill this large order but the one millimetre specification presented a problem. A standard method for making plate at the time was to run metal bars between rollers adjusted to produce the required thickness, but at McKitrick's the rollers could only be adjusted to make two millimetre plate and no thinner.

How can the foundry make one millimetre plate using these rollers?



Ethan Finds the Way

The day was hot and the road dusty. Not a good day for walking.

It had been at least an hour since Ethan passed through the village behind him and he was wishing now he had drunk water instead of ale at the tavern there. He had never been this far west in Caledon Township and finding his way to Silver Creek was proving difficult.

Now, standing at the intersection of two rutted gravel roads he had another problem. In front of him was a post with four signs pointing to nearby villages. One sign said Silver Creek. The others said Campbells Cross, Kilmanagh and Inglewood. All well and good but the problem was the post was lying in the ditch, one sign pointing straight down, another at the sky and the other two ... well, they were no help either.

Until Ethan had an inspiration. Finding his way to Silver Creek would not be so hard after all.

Why not?



Pennies in Palgrave

In the 1870s, children in Palgrave always looked forward to the annual visit of Silas Renarm's travelling medicine show, not just for the entertainment but also because Silas gave them a chance to win a penny by solving one of his many puzzles.

This one was a favourite and was open to any child under the age of twelve and accompanied by an adult who bought some medicine.

On a cedar shingle, Silas would place six coins in two rows meeting at a right angle, making four in one row and three in the other. To earn a penny, a child had one minute to rearrange the pattern so that there would be **FOUR** coins in each row, still at a right angle.

Would you have earned a penny?



No Page Numbers!

Polly was driving south along a sideroad in East Luther Township, hoping to get to Hillburgh before 3 p.m. with a report she'd just completed. The report was on standard 8.5" x 11" paper, printed on both sides, and carried in a file folder. It was exactly 100 pages long and there was no cover page; the text began on page one.

As she crossed into East Garafraxa she suddenly realized that before printing the report she'd neglected to insert page numbers and would now have to stop and add page numbers by hand.

How many times will she write the digit '6'?

Once More at S.S. # 15

After removing many coats of paint from the wainscot, the renovators found this interesting challenge carved into the wood underneath.

A SINGLE STRAIGHT LINE IS ALL YOU
NEED TO CORRECT THIS MISTAKE

$$5 + 5 + 5 = 550$$

Add the single straight line and make the arithmetic correct.

Proper Usage in Erin's Weekly

Silvester Dilts, who established Erin's first weekly newspaper in 1880, would never knowingly allow faulty usage to creep into its pages. Would your language skills meet his standards? Test yourself with these sentences adapted from past issues of Erin's newspaper. Each one offers a proper usage choice and a faulty one.

Identify the proper word in each case to see whether Silvester would have offered you a job.

— 1 —

Ontario's legal system strongly (prescribes, proscribes) theft of property.

— 2 —

We regret our brand new printing press was (deficient, defective).

— 3 —

Our township's reeve showed his (metal, mettle) by opposing the motion.

— 4 —

(Healthful, healthy) citizens usually have a (healthful, healthy) diet.

— 5 —

Just what, we ask, did the prime minister (infer, imply) by that statement?

— 6 —

Root crops in the township have (luxuriant, luxurious) foliage this year.



— 7 —

This paper would never have (forecasted, forecast) the outcome of the game had it been known (who, whom) would be the referee.

— 8 —

Our fall fair this year was graced by the (imminent, eminent) Bishop Wisely.

— 9 —

Three newspapermen besides (myself, me) attended this important meeting.

— 10 —

For the government to go (farther, further) with this proposal would be wrong.