

# A PUZZLING CONCLUSION

by Ken Weber

## Match the Latin

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, editors of local newspapers here in the hills often used common Latin phrases in their reportage and editorials, secure in the knowledge that readers were familiar with their meaning. The Latin phrases below are taken from the Erin Advocate, the Bolton Enterprise and the Orangeville Sun. Match each Latin phrase with its appropriate meaning. (To make it interesting we have added a few “meanings” that have no matching Latin counterpart.)

- A. *vir prudens*    B. *sine qua non*    C. *casus belli*    D. *tabula rasa*    E. *advocatus diaboli*    F. *ab initio*    G. *terra incognita*
1. devil’s advocate    2. unknown territory    3. without a reason    4. wise man    5. blank slate
6. essential condition (without which not)    7. source of the conflict    8. in complete agreement    9. from the beginning



## At the Market in Creemore

Dolores and Ernie went to the Creemore Market with Mark and Peggy to get what they needed to make this year’s apple sauce. Because Dolores had slept in, they were late getting under way and the market was about to close when they finally arrived, so the four hurriedly bought all the remaining baskets of apples on sale. It turned out the total number of apples they bought was 233 and because each of them had contributed different amounts of money to the total purchase price, they agreed the apples should be divided proportionately. After the count-out Peggy had 20 more apples than Mark, 53 more than Dolores, and 71 more than Ernie (who had eaten one before the count-out started).

*How many apples did each get?*



## A Rainy Day Challenge

In the fall of 1872, the pupils of Strong’s School (S.S. No.1 Albion) planned to have a picnic but heavy rain almost spoiled the day. Fortunately, because S.S. No.1 had just moved to a new school building on the 3rd Line of Albion Township, there was a brand new blackboard available to the teacher for presenting puzzles like the one below. (With puzzles like this to occupy them, the pupils were quite content to eat their sandwiches inside.)

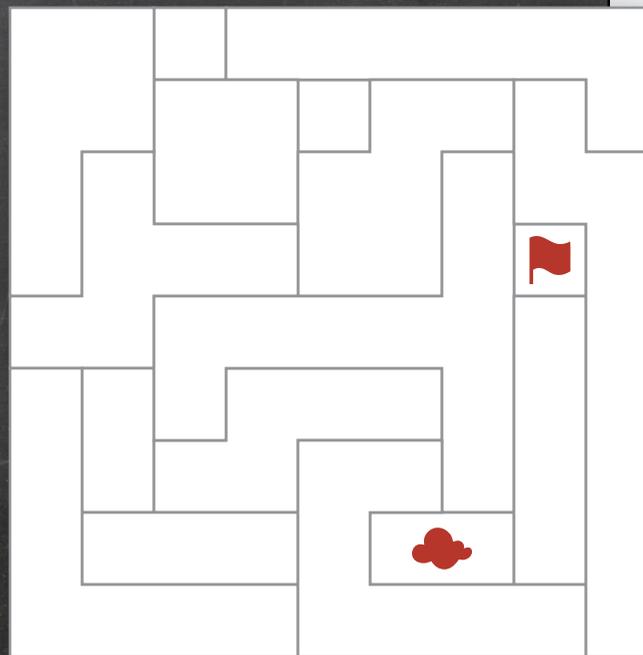
Fill in the maze by entering *these symbols*



into its seventeen sections in *this way*:

1. Your completed maze will have *four* suns, *four* flags, *four* stars and *five* clouds.
2. The maze will have *one* symbol per section no matter what the section’s size or shape.
3. No section of the completed maze will touch another section with the same symbol.

(We have entered two suggestions to get you started.)



## “It’s Never Discussed!”

Trent, Reggie and Jim regularly play golf at the Glen Eagle course on Highway 50. Although there is a considerable difference in their ages they never discuss this fact and they never talk about money either, even though their incomes vary considerably.

Trent is a bachelor. The eldest of the three men has two daughters in college. Reggie’s annual income is the lowest of the three but he is not the youngest. Although it has never come up in conversation, all three know that the oldest of the trio makes the most money.

*Who is the oldest of this trio and who is the youngest?*



AN IN THE HILLS MINI MYSTERY

## From Melancthon to Mississippi

It was obvious they didn’t trust him. Not yet anyway. Which is why, as he brushed his teeth, Gary left the bathroom door wide open to make a kind of I-have-nothing-to-hide statement. Their wariness, of course, was to be expected. The Black Lasers didn’t trust anyone, especially a newcomer.

Gary leaned lower over the sink and contemplated the running water for a few seconds, then nonchalantly opened the faucet wider before returning to his brushing. The open door scheme was having an effect – he could see one of the Lasers watching him, making

no attempt to conceal a blatant, most unfriendly stare. Although the stare made Gary edgy, he knew it was a deliberate part of the initiation. Even so, he couldn’t suppress a sudden wave of anxiety. And no wonder, for Gary was a Canadian cop far from home in Jackson, Mississippi, an undercover agent spying on one of the most notorious biker gangs in the U.S.

The gang called him “Farm Boy,” but then nobody here had a real first name. Everyone went by the name of a hometown or a variation of it, so instead of Hanks or Phils there were names like Dallas and

Michigan and ‘Keepsie, the name for the guy from Poughkeepsie, New York. Gary’s cover story was that as a farmer from an out-of-the-way place up in Canada called Melancthon, he had well-established marijuana grow-op connections. Because the Lasers couldn’t get their tongues around “Melancthon,” he was simply known as Farm Boy. It was neither a compliment nor an insult, just another indication he had a way to go yet before being fully accepted by the gang.

*If you were a Black Laser why should you doubt Gary’s cover story?*