A Puzzling Conclusion

by Ken Weber

A New Game at the Jolly Morphology Club

Supporters of prohibition were intrigued by the continuing success of the Jolly Morphology Club, the tavern near Mono Mills that switched from beer to word games in 1916 after the passing of the Ontario Temperance Act. This was despite the fact the same word puzzle was used night after night. To keep curiosity from turning into an investigation, the owners thought it wise to put a new puzzle on the board. This one, they felt, would have "legs" because it was more than a bit obscure. What they failed to realize is that with imagination and logic the puzzle can be quite easily solved.

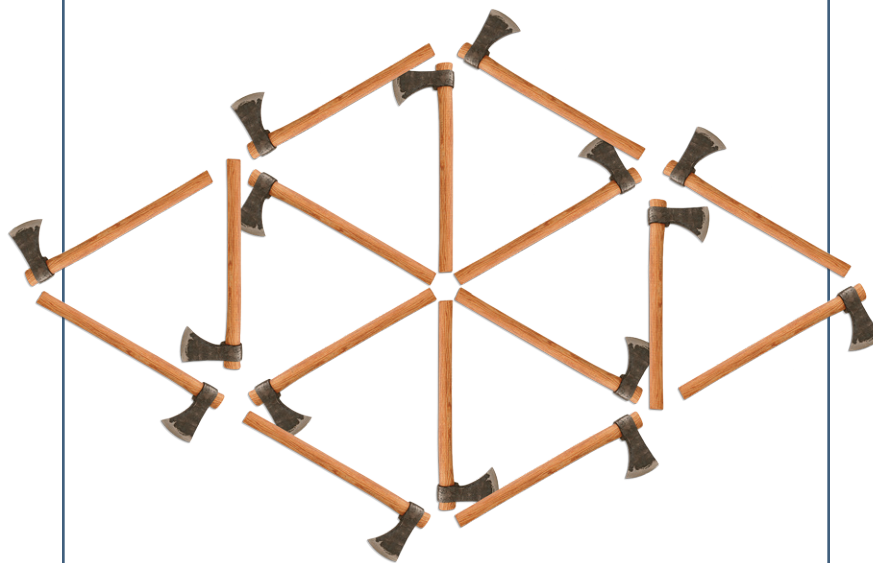*Could you have solved it in a single visit to the Jolly Morphology Club?*

Match the birds in Column A with their collective noun in Column B:

A	B
quail	parliament
larks	parade
peacocks	charm
woodpeckers	murder
ducks	exaltation
geese	covey
crows	gatling
penguins	ostentation
finches	gaggle
owls	raft

At a Lumber Camp in Melancthon

On the banks of the Noisy River in the northeast corner of Melancthon Township, the crew at a lumber camp had a rare afternoon off, but with no way to leave the camp they challenged one another with axe puzzles to keep from getting bored. The pattern with eight triangles of equal size was set up by the loggers in the crew. Their challenge was to remove just four axes and leave four triangles of equal size. The teamsters solved it.

What did their solution look like?

The camp cook had recently come to Canada from England and tried to organize a game of rugby but no one was interested, so he set out six axes parallel to one another and told everyone to shift just two axes and leave nothing.

Was the cook just being cranky about the rugby game or is there a solution to his puzzle?

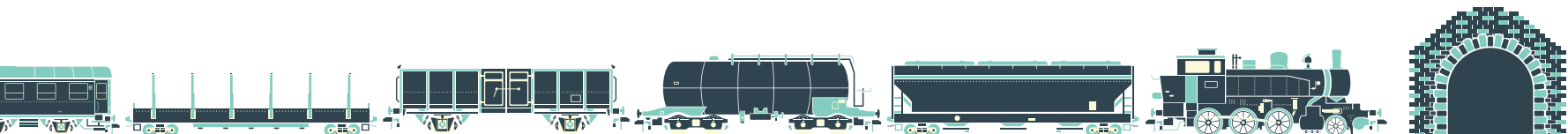## Can the Bus Hold All These Passengers?

At the first stop, 29 people get on the shuttle bus you're driving (because of Orangeville's Jazz and Blues Festival the bus has been very busy), but then 3 of them suddenly get off again before the doors close, along with 5 of the 12 who were already aboard. At the second stop, 18 of the 26 who got on board at the first stop and stayed aboard now get off and 10 new passengers get on. At stop three after the turn onto Broadway, 3 of the 10 passengers who boarded at the second stop now get off while the bus takes on 12 new riders, half of whom are children. At the fourth stop, 2 of the passengers who boarded at the first stop now get off along with 2 of the 10 from stop two. One adult and half the children who boarded at stop three also disembark. Meanwhile, no less than 17 new passengers get on. This is a 42-seat bus with standing room for 8 people.

What is the colour of the bus driver's eyes?

The Train in the Tunnel

A one-kilometre long train on the Toronto Grey and Bruce line approaches a one-kilometre tunnel at a constant speed of 60 km/hr (a kilometre per minute).

How long does it take the train to get through the tunnel?

Missing Letters at the Alton Fair

At the Alton Fair, a PowerPoint presentation at the children's entertainment exhibit presented this letter sequence with one letter missing:

S M T W _ F S

Everyone figured out right away that the missing letter was "T" for Thursday. The next missing letter sequence was solved even faster:

J F M A M _ J A S O N D

But even with a hint ("You can swallow these") the missing-letter puzzle below slowed the kids down: *The next letter cannot be F; what must it be?*

A B C D E _

On the other hand, at least half of the kids got this one in only a minute or two, especially the ones who talked out loud while solving it.

a b c d e f g h i j k m n
o p q r s t u v w x y z

What's being celebrated here?