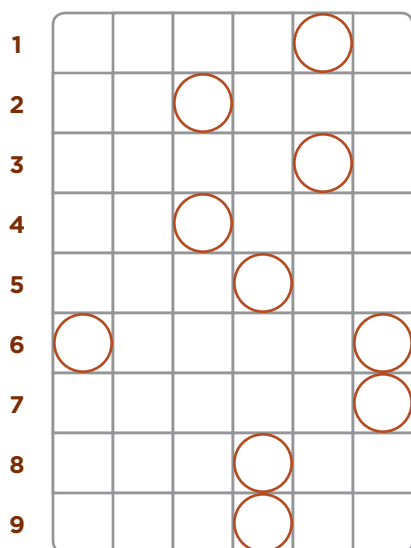# A Puzzling Conclusion

BY KEN WEBER

Words of Diminution

Insert six-letter words as defined below, into the appropriate row of the following grid. Each of the words is related to reducing – to making or being smaller. When you have filled the grid, anagram nine of the circled letters to identify a pleasant hamlet in Mulmur. (There are ten circled letters; one of them you won't need.)

1
To make less *(yes, this one is really easy)*

2
A thing or person thought insignificant

3
To make smaller in size

4
A point of separation

5
To lower in rank

6
To fade and dry

7
Subtract

8
To reduce by removal

9
To reduce by abrading

A Matter of the Mind

The Jolly Morphology Club Redecorates

When prohibition caused its sudden conversion to a word puzzle centre, the former tavern near Mono Mills wisely chose to cover large beer ads on the walls with posters like this one.

When you read the poster above did you notice the error in it?

Who Stood Where in the Lineup?

One Saturday evening in 1927, Miss Lomas, the teacher at S.S.#5 East Garafraxa, noticed a long lineup outside the new Uptown Theatre in Orangeville. Patrons were waiting to buy tickets for *My Best Girl*, the new movie starring Mary Pickford, and the sight gave Miss Lomas an idea. The next week she posed the following problem to her students.

"In the lineup outside the Uptown," she said, "I could see Wally was ahead of Sarah, and Mort was behind Doreen and Pauline. She – Pauline, that is – was way ahead of Portia but right in front of Peter. Pearl was behind Mort, Chuck and Peter.

"Peter was ahead of Chuck, and he was also ahead of Abner who came well after Pearl but was just behind Portia. Doreen was in the line ahead of Sarah, and Chuck was ahead of Wally, Mort and Doreen. Sarah was right in front of Portia. Pearl was ahead of Wally and Abner.

"Sarah was pretty far back of Doreen and Pauline, and she was behind Pearl too. Mort was ahead of Sarah, while Chuck was behind Pauline, but not very far.

"These 10 people stood in single file. Start by writing down their names. It is not that difficult to figure out the order in which they stood."
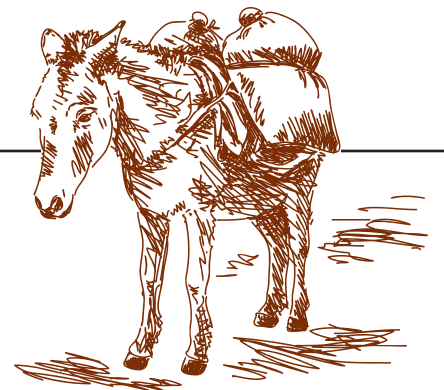
Who stood where?

At the Tonsorial Parlour

Simply because he liked arithmetic, the barber in Hillsburgh always had a short puzzle taped to the mirror in front of his single chair. This one, *Can you make 6, 1, 7 and 9 equal 24?* was up for only a day before someone solved it.

The speedy solution didn't surprise him because the challenge was fairly simple, but the barber was genuinely stirred when one of his 12-year-old patrons said, "I have a more elegant solution. It is built around 3 times 8, which as you know equals 24 and still uses the 6, 1, 7 and 9 you require."

What is the speedy solution?
What is the more elegant solution?

Mule Train(ing)

Because his mule was very smart it didn't take long for Solomon to train it to walk unescorted from Alton to Melville loaded with bags of salt. The reward of several carrots at both ends of a return trip was enough to ensure the mule's arrival. Yet, also because it was very smart, it didn't take the mule long to discover that once loaded with salt, all it had to do to lighten the load was divert to Shaw's Creek where it would stand in a pool until much of the salt dissolved and floated away, thus making the walk to Melville much easier.

No slouch himself, Solomon devised a way to re-educate the mule so it would continue to walk to Melville with salt, but without the detour into the creek.

What was Solomon's tactic?

Creative Thinking in Stanley Park

Rather than let alumni from Marsville School be upset by the sight of litter during their reunion picnic at Stanley Park in Erin – someone had left old tires and pieces of cedar fence rail – Mr. Boggs quickly set out the unwanted trash in the pattern above.

Mr. Boggs then offered this challenge: *"Can you remake this pattern so it is equivalent to nine-fifty?"* Then he added with a wink, "Take your time!"