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## ACROSS THE ISLAND

### Riddle Of Nine Pigs Greeted With Interest

By NEIL A. MATHESON

I WAS completely surprised by the interest the riddle of “the nine pigs and four pens” stirred up. I’ve had dozens of letters and countless telephone calls. Many were so terribly desirous of learning the right answer that I promised to reveal it in this week’s column, though I said the answer would come in two week’s time.

There is a most interesting story on the many replies I received, and on the ingenious methods some people used in an effort to get the nine pigs in the four pens.

Because letters are still coming in – I had to write this on Tuesday – I’m merely going to give the answer here and I’ll write about the letters and calls later, perhaps next week.

I said there was a gimmick and it’s in the arrangement of the pens. The standard answer is put three pens in the yard, or field, with three pigs in each pen. Then build a larger pen surrounding the three smaller ones. That is one way it can be done, though you can vary the number of pigs in each of the three small pens, so long as they are odd numbers. One man has a slightly different pen arrangement and he’s also right. I’ll tell you about them next week.

### From Lakeville To Tignish

STAN BOWLES, feature editor, has given me another which I may use in a future column. Letters came from all parts of the province, from Lakeville to Tignish. Long distance telephone calls came from as far as Borden and Murray Harbour.

My thanks to Mrs. Ernest Poole, manager of the Kingsway Motel where I got the idea. Apparently it created a great deal of amusement for a great many people. I think it will create further amusement for you readers when I tell the story of some of the replies next week.

### Tractor Accident Recalled

AN UNUSUAL flash back comes this week from Hamilton, Ontario where Mrs. Christine Cantelo recalls the tractor accident that seriously injured Elmer Cantelo – he is now her husband – at St. Peter’s on November 16, 1949. The tractor rolled over and pinned him underneath. Then a youth of 14 years, he was under the tractor all night.

Mrs. Cantelo tells me that Elmer had been under the tractor almost 24 hours.

The young lad was brought up in the home of his grandfather, Alfred Simmons, who is now deceased, and the accident occurred on a neighboring farm.

Mrs. Cantelo tells me that Elmer was rushed to the Souris hospital as soon as the tractor had been lifted off him, then adds:

As a result of the accident over eighteen years ago, Elmer has suffered almost constant pain in the injured leg and foot. He had had three operations, the most recent being on February 22 this year.

“This surgery, it is hoped, will correct badly shrunken and damaged ligament in the foot and lower legs area. A further operation may be needed later, if the desired results are not obtained from this one,” Mrs. Cantelo explains.

Elmer now has three children, six, nine and ten years old and lives in Hamilton where he is employed with Consolidated Bathurst Ltd. as a machine operator. He has worked there since first coming to Hamilton in 1950, his wife’s letter relates.

“The time required for healing of his latest surgery is six to eight weeks, after which he hopes, for the first time since his 1949 accident, to go out and buy any good shoe that catches his fancy. For the past 19 years he has had to choose a style of shoe suitable for rebuilding.” Mrs. Cantelo explains.

### ‘Roll Bars’ For Tractors

ALTHOUGH I am no mechanic, I suggested several years ago that tractors come equipped with “roll bars” so that a driver could not be pinned underneath if one rolled over.

Now “roll bars” are available, at least on some tractors. Charlie McIsaac told me this week that the “roll bars” are available as optional equipment on International tractors. That means extra cost, but I would think the extra safety factor involved should be worth something extra. There may be other companies with this equipment on their tractors as well.

I was interested in the demands for reforms on campus of the St. Dunstan’s students last week. I cannot understand how a university could allow students to select their own courses, but I want to add quickly that some of the courses that were compulsory in my university days have never been of any practical value to me.

It’s a long time since I graduated and many changes have likely been made, but I can understand students’ desire to have more of a voice in selecting what they shall study, even though I can see problems in granting such a request.

### Dating Rules Were Silly

I’M TOLD there was no reference to dating privileges in the brief presented to the University Senate, though they had been talked of earlier.

The reference stirred memories from my own student days at Mt. Allison. A university male student could date a freshman girl student if a senior girl student went out with her at the same time. A sophomore girl also had to have a senior girl to go out with her, if she went out with a date.

I have been on such dates, and what do you think invariably happened? As soon as both girls met their dates and were out of sight of the girls’ residence, they checked their watches and agreed to meet at 10 o’clock, which was the time to be back, as I recall it.

The senior girl and her date didn’t want any part of the freshette or the sophette, any more than the younger girl and her date wanted any part of the senior.

Surely this must have been known to university authorities, yet they persisted in carrying out this farce. Two junior class girls – third year students – could go out on dates together, and this was a similar farce. The girls separated, with their male companions, and met at the residence at the necessary time.

## Courting Eased At Dalhousie

ON A FOOTBALL trip to Halifax, along with a number of chaps, I visited Sheriff Hall, a girls' residence on the Dalhousie campus. I recall that the lady who showed us the reception room, or whatever they called it, drew our attention to the alcoves along the walls. She explained that the man who had designed it had done so purposely.

As a former Dalhousie student he recalled how uncomfortable he had felt along the straight wall, and "sticking out like a sore thumb" – at least he had felt that way. So he had the recesses, or alcoves designed so future students would benefit by his action. I believe the lady who showed us around was the dean of the ladies residence, and she was human enough to note that "the present crop of students" appreciated the design. That was 40 years ago and I imagine that much has changed at Dalhousie, but I still remember the alcoves and recall that I thought it was a darn good idea.

One more reference to dating at Mt. Allison. Old students will recall the stone quarry where dating students often went on their walks. My research for this column has uncovered the fact that stone taken from the quarry was used in building the docks at Borden for the car ferry more than 50 years ago. The company that had the contract was called "The Sackville Freestone Company" as I recall the story told me by Freeman Leslie of St. Peter's who had been associated with a part of the operation. Mr. Freeman died several years ago.

## Tuna Caught 30 Years Ago

NEWSPAPER AND other news media made a big fuss last year about the so-called "first Tuna" landed from the waters around the Island.

W.W. Clow, who lived in Grand Tracadie when I met him first, tells me that Charles Gibbs caught one in Grand Tracadie Harbor more than 30 years ago. The tuna weighed 100 pounds, Mr. Clow recalls.