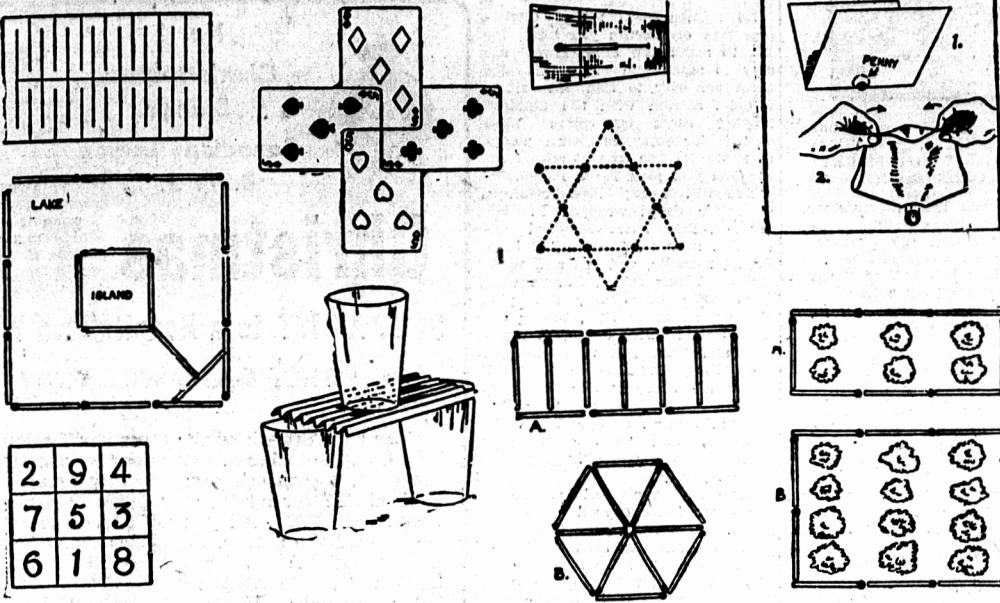


# THE PUZZLE CORNER



BY PETER PUZZLEM

No item on the party agenda is better received than "Puzzle Corner," for most of us enjoy puzzling out the answers to tricky problems and the solutions to baffling tricks and teasers. But some of us must set the puzzles and the tricks, and that is where YOU come in.

Here are a few posers and teasers that ought to tickle the fancy of your guests and get their grey matter working. They are all quite simple and need little apparatus, but before you "do your act," practise them again and again so that you are "word perfect," for nothing falls flatter than a trick that doesn't work the first time.

For this first puzzle, you need a blackboard, or a sheet of paper pinned to a board. Now you must call for a volunteer from among your guests, who will not mind answering a few simple questions.

Twenty-one years with your firm, you say. "Then that means you started that job in 1929. Right — we will put that date beneath the other figures."

Now you will have a sum something like this:

41  
1908  
21  
1928  
3886 (total)

That done, you ask someone else to look behind the clock (or in some other place you have decided upon) and take out the folded piece of paper that is hidden there. (It could even be sealed in an envelope.) Tell your guests to take out the paper and read the number that is written upon it — and watch them gape as the number is read out — 3886, the same as the answer to the sum.

Looks amazing, doesn't it? But you cannot make a mistake. The answer must always be the same — twice the figures of the current year. In other words — 1949 by 2 is 3898, so you can prepare the hidden piece of paper before the trick and be quite sure that whatever questions you ask, providing you do not make a mistake in your addition, the answer will always be the same.

If you are not sure, try it with other numbers. Supposing the guest was aged 11 — born in 1938 — you could then ask: "How many years have you been going to school?" The answer might be "6" — which means that the fourth line of the sum would be 1943, the date your young friend started at school. Now add 11, 1938, 6, 1943, and the answer is 3988.

Remember, however, that if you try this little teaser in 1950, the correct answer to your sum must be 3900, twice the current date.

Next trick — you want an ordinary postcard. Tell your friends that you will stick your head through it, and then hear them laugh. But YOU will get the last laugh when you show them that it can be done.

(Diag. 1) With a razor blade or a sharp penknife, make a few cuts in the card — follow the diagram (1) herewith, and you will see just how and where to cut. Having completed them, pull gently at each end of the card and it will stretch out into one long piece of card, in the form of a ring.

the pin underneath and float UPRIGHT. Well, if you don't believe it, try it and see, and then work it out on your friends! (Diag. 3.)

While you prepare for your next puzzle, ask your guests if they can take ONE from NINETEEN and leave TWENTY. It sounds quite impossible, doesn't it? But write down "19" in Roman numerals — (XIX); now take the I away from it, and what have you left? Twenty — (XX).

Yes, of course it's a catch, but rather smart — and it will catch out your friends.

For the next trick you'll need three tumblers — no, not the acrobatic sort! Stand two of them on the table about six inches apart, and then show your friends a sheet of ordinary notepaper (not too thin) and another tumbler and ask them to use the notepaper to make a bridge between the two glasses and stand the other one on top of it.

Mind they don't smash the tumbler when they find that they cannot balance it on the notepaper. But the trick is as easy as most tricks — when you know how to do it.

All you do is to fold the notepaper until it resembles corrugated iron, and you will find that it will hold the third tumbler balanced across the other two. The accompanying sketch will show you how. (Diag. 4.)

Now we'll try another numerical puzzle. For this you need some slips of paper, each containing a square, divided into nine smaller squares. Hand these around to your guests and ask them to put the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, into the squares (one number in each square, of course) so that each line of three figures, whether up or down, or diagonally adds up to 15.

Now sit back and leave your friends to puzzle it out. By the way, here is the correct solution: (Diagram of 9 squares.) (Diag. 5.)

A box of matches is always handy apparatus for few puzzling tricks. Here's the first.

(Diag. 6) Lay out 18 matches as in the accompanying sketch "A." These represent 13 hurdles which are used to form separate pens for six goats. Now, you tell your guests, one of the hurdles is broken — (take one of the matchsticks away) — and the farmer was left with 12 hurdles. But each goat had to have a separate pen. How did he use the 12 hurdles to make six pens for his goats?

The second part of the sketch "B" will show you how he did it. While you've got those 12 hurdles, lay them out on the table to form the word FIFTY. Now take away seven matches and tell your friends to make 80. Actually, you do not mean quite what you say, for all you do is to form the letters A T — eighty, see?

(Diag. 7) Still using your matches, lay out eight of them in the form of a rectangle, 3 matches wide and one match deep, as in the sketch "A."

Here's the story you tell your friends: A farmer planted six young trees in pairs, and placed 8 hurdles around them. (You can use nuts to represent the trees.) A few days later he decided to double the number of trees, which meant doubling the size of the enclosure. Now how many more hurdles did he need to carry out the job — in other words, how many more matches would be needed to double the size of the rectangle?

little trick. Next is the story of two Boy Scouts who wanted to get across to an island in the middle of a lake. So, with matches, lay out a square, 3 matches forming each side, to represent the area of the lake. In the centre form another square, one match long and wide, to represent the island.

Now then, hand two matches to a friend and tell him that they represent the Boy Scouts' poles with which they formed a bridge so that they could cross to the island. They used NOTHING ELSE so how did they get across?

There is only one solution — and you will see it in the sketch. Want another trick with those nuts? Right, here you are.

Hand twelve nuts to a guest and ask him to place them on the table in six straight lines, with four nuts in each line. You can be sure that unless your friends have seen the trick before, they will fail to do what you ask, but it is quite simple. All you do is to lay the nuts in the formation sketched herewith — to form six straight lines.

Conclude your "puzzle corner" with this cute catch. Get a piece of notepaper and cut a hole in the centre of it the same size as a shilling. (You can use a shilling to mark out the hole, to prove to your audience that there is no deception.) Now lay a penny over the hole — and tell your friends that you will pass the penny through the hole without tearing the paper. It looks impossible, doesn't it, and yet there is a simple way of doing it.

Fold the paper, so that the hole is in the centre of the fold, as in Fig. 1 of the sketch. The penny is now lodged in the hole, but still it will not pass through. Take the top corners of the folded paper and press inwards (as in Fig. 2). The hole will now stretch enough for the penny to slip through quite easily, and the paper is not damaged in any way. (Diag. 1, 2.)

If you practise up these few puzzles, posers and teasers before you try them on your guests, your party should not lack for laughs. Good luck to all you erstwhile party magicians!

## Christmas Queries

Continued from page 8

ent old character. WHY do some people see Father Christmas EVERY DAY? Because there is a statute in the benevolent old gentleman in the little town of Santa Claus, in Indiana, U.S.A. Originally named Santa Fe, it had to be renamed because there was another Santa Fe in Argentina. The residents chose the name Santa Claus — and their town became world famous.

WHY is the Yule log burned at "Yule-tide"? This lovely old custom dates back to the Pagan Norsemen. During the closing hours of each year they gathered around a blazing log, in the flames of which all their enmity and hatred of the previous months vanished — or were supposed to! Thus, with much feasting and ceremonial rite, the New Year was heralded in a spirit of "peace and goodwill" to all men.

WHY do we decorate the house with holly at Christmas? Legend tells us that Christ's "crown of thorns" was of "holly evergreens," or so we know it today, holly. Many superstitions are connected with holly. The ancient Celts placed it in their homes to ward off evil spirits. According to an old rhyme: "Should a scarlet berry fall, A prosperous year is pledged to all."

WHY kiss beneath the mistletoe? Another custom of ancient origin. The Druids of 2,000 years ago considered there was a magic charm about mistletoe, and a marriage sealed with a kiss under a hanging sprig of the silver-berried plant, would be blessed by the gods. But did you know that each time a couple kiss beneath the mistletoe, a berry should be plucked? If this is not done, the charm cannot work. With the last berry plucked, the mistletoe is useless....

WHY should the holly and mistletoe be taken down immediately after New Year's Day? Another superstitious belief of the Middle Ages. It was believed that if the holly and mistletoe Christmas decorations were left in the house after midnight on New Year's Day, bad luck would descend upon the household. The custom still persists.

WHY the Christmas tree? Today, no child's Festival Season is complete without the gaily-decorated tree, although the original significance is forgotten. It is thought that there was a religious reason for the people of Strasburg adopting the custom many years ago, for the fir tree has been sacred since the Old Testament days when the great Temple of Jerusalem was built from the timber of hewn firs. It was introduced into England in 1760 by Queen Charlotte, wife of George III.

WHY are carol-singers called "waits"? It is thought that the derivation of the word meant "watch," for centuries ago, minstrels were attached to the King's Court to keep order and to patrol the streets at night proclaiming the time to the people — "pliping the watch," as it was called. For this they received 4½d. Another definition of the word is "waygates" or "wayboys," old-time musical instruments which were used by those early minstrels.

WHY were carols once banned? Actually, the earliest Christmas carols were of pagan origin, and for that reason they were banned by the Christian Church at the time of the Puritanical Oliver Cromwell. It is of interest to note that the Druid's name for Strawnmeze was

Carol, and it is thought that the songs sung while the Druids cut the mistletoe for their ceremonial end-of-year rites, were known as carols.

WHY do we sing about "Good King Wenceslas"? The ever-popular carol is a tribute to a former King of Bohemia, who was regarded as the world's most benevolent monarch. He used much of his vast riches to start and maintain many churches throughout his kingdom, which so angered his Pagan rivals, that Wenceslas was assassinated by his jealous brother around the year 936. His name remains, however.

WHY do we decorate our Christmas trees with lights or candles? This colorful custom is attributed to Martin Luther. One frosty night this great Protestant Reformer was walking through a wood near his home, when he stared up at the tall firs, which seemed to be decorated with tiny sparkling lights. Actually, he was seeing the stars twinkling through the branches, but the religious significance of the stars so appealed to Luther, that he vowed always to have a small fir tree decorated with lighted candles, in his home during the celebration of Christ's birth. The custom has become universal, although in these modern days candles have given way to tiny electric bulbs.

WHY did turkey become the most common Christmas dish? Some say that the Pilgrim Fathers celebrated their first harvest in New England with a feast, at which turkey was the main dish. Turkey was chosen because it was the most plentiful bird in that part of the world. It was James I, the Scottish monarch, who introduced England to roast turkey — because he hated wild boar, which was then considered "royal" meat.

WHY do we have mince pies at Christmas? In the Middle Ages the festive board of every Christmas home was adorned with a huge pile filled with sweet meat and rich spices, symbolising the gifts of the wise men to the Infant Jesus, and baked in a shape representing the cradle-manger of Bethlehem. The modern mince pie in a miniature replica of that age-old Christmas custom.

WHY is plum pudding a Christmas dish? In days of old it was known as plum pottage; it contained balled beef or mutton, raisins, prunes, etc., and was eaten as a breakfast dish. Later it was served as a soup at dinner, but as bread, flour and other things were added, it assumed the consistency of pudding and became the last item on the Christmas dinner menu instead of the first.

WHY is the chrysanthemum known as "The Christ Flower"? Legend says that the Wise Men, seeking the stable where the Baby Jesus lay, were unable to find it. It was then that one of them plucked a star-like flower growing by the side of the rough track — and immediately the stable was revealed. That flower is supposed to have resembled our well-loved chrysanthemum, that is so popular at Christmastide.

WHY do we pull crackers at Christmas? This custom is one of the most modern of all. About 100 years ago a confectioner, named Tom Smith, manufactured sweets and wrapped them in tissue paper. He called them "bon-bons." One day, sitting listening to the crackling of a blazing log fire, he hit upon the novel idea of making bon-bons that emitted a crackling sound. So instead of wrapping a sweet in tissue paper, he enlarged the wrapper and included a tiny explosive

# Party Games

Continued from page 8

- Stone — or any other 5-lettered word ending in — one.
- Because it works only when it plays.
- One is stocking his mind, and the other is minding his stock.
- Because they both make up stories.
- Because the weight of the scales is included.
- A yard measure.
- When it is a shamrock.

## THE ZOO THAT NEVER WAS

This is an excellent round game for parties and similar social gatherings. Where the number of participants is more than family size, a convenient way of carrying it out is to divide them into groups, each of which numbers five or six persons, and has a leader. Everybody should be provided with a sheet of paper and a pencil.

As an initial measure the players are instructed — by one general announcement, or by the more intimate instructions of the group leaders — to write down at the top of their papers the names of an animal, a bird, a reptile, an insect and some other creature selected according to individual choice. The papers are then folded and given to the group leaders and put into hats, boxes or some other simple form of container.

Each player now comes forward in turn and takes a folded paper mixture that was detonated when the cracker was pulled. Papers caps and tiny toys took the place of sweets and a new Christmas industry was born.

WHY do we give presents at Christmas? Blame the Romans for this expensive custom. The Saturnalian feasts held to celebrate the end of the year were very much akin to our present Christmas festivities. Masters mingled with their servants, all social ties were banished, and amid drinking and merry-making, gifts were handed round by rich and poor alike.

WHY Christmas cars? More than 100 years ago, it was the custom for Christmas "pieces" to be sent to one's friends. They were merely "home-made" messages adorned with decorative borders and it was the delight of the kiddies to colour them. In 1864, however, J. C. Horsley, a member of the Royal Academy, decided to design a coloured card which could be printed, thus saving timing and a great deal of trouble. The valuable Christmas card industry is the result....

from the pool, being careful not to unfold it and look as it yet. When all have returned to their places, the leader gives the word of command which sets them free to proceed to the next state — which is the drawing of a composite and imaginary creature containing some part or parts of all those named at the head of the paper. A reasonable time-limit should be set and, when it is reached, the papers should again be given to the leader who holds them up successively so that the group may act as a jury and select the one that most nearly complies with some specified description — e.g. the cleverest, the funniest, the ugliest,

the nicest, etc. The results are nearly always amusing, and quite often little touches of ingenuity or a whimsical choice of listed creatures produces quite remarkable drawings.

## MAGIC WITH DICE

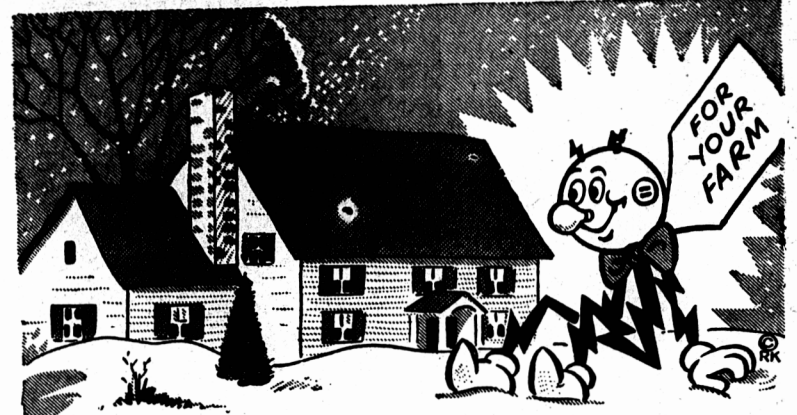
It is always impressive to be able to guess names or numbers or cards that can apparently be known only to a single person or a confederate group. Here is an excellent trick of that kind, carried out with dice of the usual sort (ie, numbered from 1 to 6 on the respective sides).

Hand them to the person or persons whom you want to mystify, or to whom you wish to display your skill, and ask that they be thrown on to a table or some other flat surface — the resulting num-

bers being then noted, but not revealed to you. "There's no need to tell me," you say, "I can guess them." And this you at once proceed to do, on the following lines.

"Choose either one of the top-most numbers," you instruct, "and multiply it by 2.... Right? Now add 5.... And multiply that result by 5.... After which you need only to add the number up- permost on the other cube, and tell me your final result. And the answer is...."

You can give that answer at once, but as a wise wizard you will keep the method to yourself. All that you have to do is to subtract 25 from the total, just announced to you. The two digits of the number that remains are always the numbers on the top faces of the two dice.



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## THE MARITIME ELECTRIC COMPANY Ltd

# SHOPPING HOURS



FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

To avoid confusion and for the convenience of the patrons of the following merchants of Charlottetown the shopping hours as listed have been agreed upon by the stores listed below:

**OPEN :** STORES OPEN ALL DAY WEDNESDAY  
Stores will remain open Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings — 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

**CLOSED :**  
Stores will close Monday and Tuesday the 25th and 26th and close Saturday evening December 30th at 6 p.m. Stores closed New Year's Day, January 1st.

The above business periods have been agreed upon and announced well in advance in a sincere effort to offer real service to all patrons of Charlottetown retail business and at the same time co-operate with the large number of employees that serve you in this retail business.

- BESTOVALL BAKERY
- BURNS JEWELLERS
- JACK CAMERON'S
- CROCKETT & STOREY
- FENNELL & CHANDLER LTD.
- FASHION SHOPPE
- GLORIA
- R. T. HOLMAN LTD.
- HENDERSON & CUDMORE
- HOLMES & BRADLEY
- HORNBY'S BAKERY
- HUGHES DRUG
- JENKINS PHARMACY
- JOHNSON & JOHNSON
- KELLY & MCINNIS
- KENNEDY'S LADIES WEAR
- MCFARLANE BROS.
- S. A. MacDONALD'S
- HARRY A. McDOUGALL

- MOORE & McLEOD LTD.
- METROPOLITAN STORES
- NEW WAY FURNITURE CO. LTD.
- PROWSE BROS. LTD.
- PINEAU'S HOME BAKERY
- PATTERSON'S JEWELLERY STORE
- ROGERS HARDWARE
- STEWART'S BAKERIES LTD.
- SIMPSON'S AGENCY
- G. H. TAYLOR'S
- F. W. WOOLWORTH CO. LTD.
- WORTHY'S DRUGS
- ERNEST H. WORTH
- J. R. WILLIAMS
- W. W. WELLNER LTD.

\*The Hughes Drug Co. Ltd., will be open December 26th, Boxing Day.

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CHARLOTTETOWN BOARD OF TRADE