

Cut nails, mentioned in this column as an oddity are now turning up. They are off the market but there are still many around in older homes. One has been received from Fenelon Falls, a five inch rusty nail with a square head. It is as hard as the proverbial nail and it is so stiff that it does not bend. Ex-Warden of the County, Tom Martin, recalls that he had trouble finding the nails a few years ago when he was building a house. He finally discovered a couple of small kegs in the cellar of the Bot-tum Hardware Store in Bob-caygeon.

"Eucalyptus" . . . a real mouthful of a word which has for years been common in the drug business and still is. A few days ago a call was received from a reader who wished to know the name of five or six tall trees on the west side of Victoria Avenue, in front of the old Sylvester property. One answer was that they were Banyan trees and another that they are Sycamore trees, a species of fig trees, but they hardly resemble this type of tree. A couple of people claimed they are Eucalyptus, a tree quite uncommon in Canada, coming from the South, where they are often noticed.

T. A. Quinn, a druggist who spends the winters in the South was advised to plant these trees on his Florida property, the claim being that they would grow tall and fast. Mr. Quinn said that essence from this tree is used in large quantities across the length and breadth of the land for medicinal purposes, very often to clear or cure a cold.

The trees on Victoria Avenue were planted probably a hundred years ago. They completely shed their bark once a year and the leaves which cover the sidewalk in the Fall are huge. Instead of keeping their bark as protection in the winter months these trees shed it and today are in the nude . . . tall in the air and they also are different to any other tree in this part of the country.

Hands up. How many people in Lindsay and district have heard of Alf Simpson of the Simpson Advertising Company? Probably many hundreds, especially among golfers, curlers, business men and novices and adepts at the fascinating game of solving Cross Word Puzzles. Alf Simpson is the expert player of these tricky puzzles. He is more, he is an inventor of this type of entertainment and recreation. Herein hangs a story.

For many many years Alf Simpson puzzled his brain (and it is a sharp one) trying to solve puzzles in the newspapers and magazines. When he was not tossing stones in the curling rink, or whamming a little white golf ball around the fairways at the Lindsay Golf Course, or doing a masterful and expert job of sign painting, he was exercising his brain and thinking talents by solving cross word puzzles. He became frustrated. Why? Because these puzzles were of American origin and very frequently he had to fill in a tiny square with the name of some Senator or member of the U.S. Congress. Perhaps he lived in Timbucto or Texas, perhaps in Harlem or out on the Arizona sands. It was a futile effort. Then Alf Simpson decided that he would make up his own cross word puzzles.

It was a challenge and he discovered that many teenagers and adults knew little about Canada. He finally decided to put his puzzles on the market and that was not an easy thing to do. However, he got to the ears of one of the news feature editors of the Toronto Telegram and soon these Lindsay-created brain

twisters were noticed in the Toronto paper. They were syndicated to many large city daily newspapers in Western Canada and in the Eastern and Southern Provinces. They have been educational, so much so that they are now used in at least one Toronto class room in History and English classes. These students began to learn more about Castles, mountains, statesmen and even sports in their own native Canada. What area is the most densely populated in Canada and who was one of the foremost exponents in Canadian history?

Where is the tallest mountain and where is it located, etc., etc. One Toronto teacher found that students were fascinated and began to know their Canadian Geography and Historical background better than ever before.

This new form of recreation for Mr. Simpson keeps him busy as he is called on to submit puzzles far enough in advance as to have insertions in every Saturday paper, that is the actual puzzle as well as the very necessary clues, both of which appear in the same issue. The puzzles, 15 small squares across, two columns and the same number of squares up and down the puzzle.

What started out as a fad and recreation for Alf Simpson has now become a business with fair returns.

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J. J. Robertson, H.H.H. The writer has not knighted the gentleman but has appended three letters which stand for Hail, Hearty and Healthy. This fact was strikingly substantiated recently on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, the event taking place at the well appointed golf lounge and Club House of Dunsford, a few miles from the Robertson farm.

Upwards of three hundred friends and relatives were in attendance, the youngest being a winsome young niece and the oldest being a woman of ninety-five years, Mrs. Geo. Martin of Bobcaygeon, Another gentleman present was Noble Dunn, 86 of Cresswell.

Mr. Robertson took time out to pay his regards to life long friend Tim Dorgan, of Downeyville who celebrated with Mrs. Dorgan a 50th wedding anniversary. Guests were present at the Robertson birthday party from the district, Lindsay, Orillia, Toronto and Philadelphia, U.S.A. The flowers included a lovely and stately cluster of yellow mums from the Farmer's Union Insurance Company with which the birthday celebrant has been associated for many years. The esteem in which Mr. Robertson is held was also attested by the receiving of over one hundred greeting cards.

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“All Aboard, All Aboard”. Remember how people hurried out of the railway station and climbed up that first high step and entered the long coach stumbling under a large valise or perhaps it was an old fashioned carpet bag? Conductors, firemen and brakemen had a busy time, the Conductor waving a funny old lantern, the brakeman standing near by or perhaps he was out in the cold coach with the slat seats and was lighting coach lamps by means of a taper.

The conductor could swing the lantern in any direction and the light never went out. “Halt” signal was given by swinging the lantern cross-wise, back-up meant a circular swing above the head and go ahead a swing lengthwise.

There was also the red light for danger and the green light for all clear, just the same as the street traffic lights of today.

These old lanterns are now obsolete and antique. Ed Harding, well known antique

dealer on Lindsay Street South has in his possession two old railway lanterns which were used many years ago by the Guards (conductors) in Ireland and England. The bulb-like bulge on the front of the glass is fitted with a red slide and a green slide, worked by hand. They are now hard to find and are consequently valued as antiques. Many of the old lanterns used in Canada and in Lindsay were originally from England.

These lanterns were used by the brakemen, running like a trained athlete on top of the freight train a dangerous job, especially in frigid weather. It was marvelous how the Brakeman could run along fast moving cars and seldom lose his balance, even in the stormy, blackness of the night.

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Eddie Nesbitt who will be remembered by many Lindsay business men as a Messenger for the Bank of Montreal in Lindsay, by others as a long time loyal member of St. Paul's Anglican Church Choir and by others for his association with the old time Minstrel Shows in Lindsay, was turning over the pages of the last issue of the Bank of Montreal Magazine. He came across the picture of G. Pepperall, who for twelve years was the Accountant in the Lindsay Bank. Beneath appeared the information that Mr. Pepperall had been awarded the "Fifth Award for an amendment to the Credit Application". He has been with the Head Office in Toronto for several years. His home originally was in the Brampton area where Mrs. Pepperall also came from. He was also stationed at Stirling before coming to Lindsay.

Incidentally the Bank of Montreal is observing 150 years of service in Ontario. Mr. Nesbitt has received a Centennial cheque for \$100. from the B. of M.