

Blog: sort of an online 'column'

I've been reading some blogs lately. I find most blogs fall into two categories. The first is the informational, slice of life, personal view on some unique subject. The other category is that 'what on earth are you smoking?' type of blogger, where I have absolutely no idea what is actually driving the author.

Ted Brown



For those who aren't familiar with concept of a blog, it's sort of an online version of what I do here—a column, just online.

Some blogs can be egotistical, where the author has the rare opportunity to blow his own horn, whether he has a reason or not. There are the fanatical bloggers, who take their particular subject—often some obscure issue or campaign—and consequently write to a very specific audience.

Last fall, when The Sidekick and I met with a couple of young shepherds, the young lady told me that she wrote a blog.

She explained how it was mostly about her and her husband's quest to buy a farm.

They were city kids, but had a passion to move to the country. To prepare, they researched rural living. During their two-year quest to find that perfect farm, she documented their trials and tribulations.

I was curious, so later that night I searched out her blog. With more than 100 posts, starting in January 2010, she had documented their search for that perfect farm.

I had to admit, the concept was somewhat contagious.

They found their 50-acre dream farm in March 2010, and took possession in May. The blog then documented their adventures adapting to this new lifestyle.

I was inspired. I thought how refreshing it'd be to write like that.

So I did it. November 1, I set up my own personal blog and posted my first entry.

It shares some aspects of my columns in *The Independent & Free Press*—The Sidekick is in there as prominent as here—but the subject matter tends to center around farming, shepherding and related subjects.

Unlike this column, my blog is vague as to where we reside—only that we live and farm on 100 acres in southern Ontario.

I'm having great fun with it, and find it therapeutic to have such freedom. I also find it fascinating when I check my online readership stats.

The bulk of my readers are from Canada, but interestingly, I have five regular readers from Russia, two regulars from Germany and a dozen or so from the mid-western United States—a prominent sheep farming area.

Since November, I've also had occasional hits from China, Spain and the Ukraine.

So I'm finding it a whole new world. I write for the sake of writing—to relax, to clear my mind and to perhaps give those five readers in Russia an insight into how we do things here in Ontario.

If you'd like to check it out, go to www.meandthesidekick.blogspot.com and have a look.

I hope you like what you see.

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PUZZLE of the week

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15										16				
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61														
63														

Across

1. Hastily made devices (2 wds)
8. Low relief enamel on ceramic
15. Smallest of the Great Lakes
16. Gives personal assurances
17. Small movable scale that slides along a main scale
18. Father's sisters, informally
19. "Iliad" warrior
20. Whooping birds
22. "Wheel of Fortune" buy (2 wds)
23. Software program that performs time-consuming tasks
24. Lentil, e.g.
25. Auditory
26. Drunk (2 wds)
28. Drink from a dish
30. Black European thrush
31. Like some mushrooms
33. Water diffused as vapour
35. Artist's media (2 wds)
37. Break, in a way (3 wds)
40. Constrain (2 wds)
44. About to explode
45. "Harper Valley ___" (acronym)
47. Agreeing (with)
48. Anchovy containers
49. Break
51. ___ Victor (acronym)
52. "Go on ..."
53. Ancient Egyptian documents
56. Sean Connery, for one
57. Harmful
59. Erstwhile (2 wds)
61. Islands of the central and S Pacific
62. What a tailor does to an old coat's insides
63. Those who group similar things
64. Chair part

Down

1. Deserving affection
2. Not using liquid
3. Concluding musical passages played at a faster speed
4. ___ Christian Andersen
5. Altdorf is its capital
6. Allotment
7. Reddish brown
8. "Terrible" czar
9. Grimace
10. Humorous play on words (pl.)
11. Appear
12. Therapeutic massage
13. Even smaller
14. Small bone, esp. in middle ear
21. Unshakably
24. Unite
25. Beginning
27. Depth charge targets (2 wds)
29. Hawaiian dish
30. Bony
32. Large North American deer
34. Publicity, slangily
36. Appear, with "up"
37. Spanish male gypsies
38. River to the Atlantic through Venezuela and Columbia
39. More pronounced bowed legs
41. Relating to pigs
42. Revenues
43. Most orderly
46. Dawn goddess
50. Lid or lip application
53. Johnnycake
54. Gulf V.I.P.
55. Two ___ in a pod
56. Ado
58. College entrance exam (acronym)
60. "A Nightmare on ___ Street"

Puzzle answers at

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