

Bill Smiley - cont'd from page 3

such garbage.

It is common practice in many of the countries of the world which are outstripping Canada and the U.S. internationally. It also makes a great deal of common sense.

It boggles one's mind to think of the millions of tons of paper, cans, bottles and other reclaimable materials which head each week for the garbage dump.

There are several reasons for this vast wastage. One of them is that we have tremendous natural resources and we throw them away with a lavish hand. It's like living on one's capital. A second reason, obviously, is that industry is not geared for reclaiming waste. In many cases it's probably cheaper to produce new tins than to recycle tin.

Neither of these reasons is a valid one. In the first place, those "inexhaustible resources" of raw material could be exhausted in a few decades. In the second, industry should, and must, find cheap means of recycling manufactured materials into raw materials.

But of course it's much simpler to look at the immediate buck. It's much simpler just to raise the price of the product than to find methods of using disposable items over and over again.

Like everything else, the recycling business seems complicated. A local organization is raising money for a worthy cause. It is collecting newspapers. But they must be bundled and tied just so. And they don't want any other kinds of paper. In the meantime, I throw out five hundred pounds of books, which have a higher rag content than the newsprint which is being picked up. Seems silly.

What ever became of the old junk-man? There was the ideal catalyst between the consumer and the recycler. The perfect middle-man.

Most small towns had a junk-man. He usually had a big yard with a fence around it, and inside the fence was an exotic jungle of junk.

When I was a kid the junk-man was my chief source of income. A vast, genial Jew with a benign twinkle, he treated us as one businessman to another.

There was little haggling on our part, because it was the only game in town, but on the other hand, he didn't try to beat us down.

Prices were established. Pint beer bottles were worth a cent, quarts two cents. He'd double his money on them. Old car tires were a nickel apiece. Paper and scrap iron were carefully weighed, and after a judicious pause, beard cocked to one side, he'd say, "I gif you twelf cents."

An enterprising kid could pick himself up forty or fifty cents a week, big money in those days. And if we caught a nice pike in the canal (this was before people worried about sewage and such) it was a bonanza, worth a dime or fifteen cents. But a meal for his family.

He prospered. And many of the big fortunes in Canada today started out in the junk-yard. The junk-man was an unrecognized benefactor to society.

During the war, there were tremendous drives for scrap metal and newsprint. It must have been used for something. Pig farmers picked up the food garbage from big military kitchens.

Why couldn't we do the same today? It would provide employment, stop wasting resources, and do a lot to clean up our environment.

I'd be perfectly willing to sort my garbage into waste food, bottles and cans, and newspapers. How about you? We could all be our own junk-men, and do a lot for our country.

The Argyle Syndicate

Positive tree identification requires close scrutiny of leaves, flowers, fruit, twigs and bark. One of the best Canadian tree books is "Native Trees of Canada" by R.C. Hogue (seventh edition) available from the Queen's Printer for Canada.

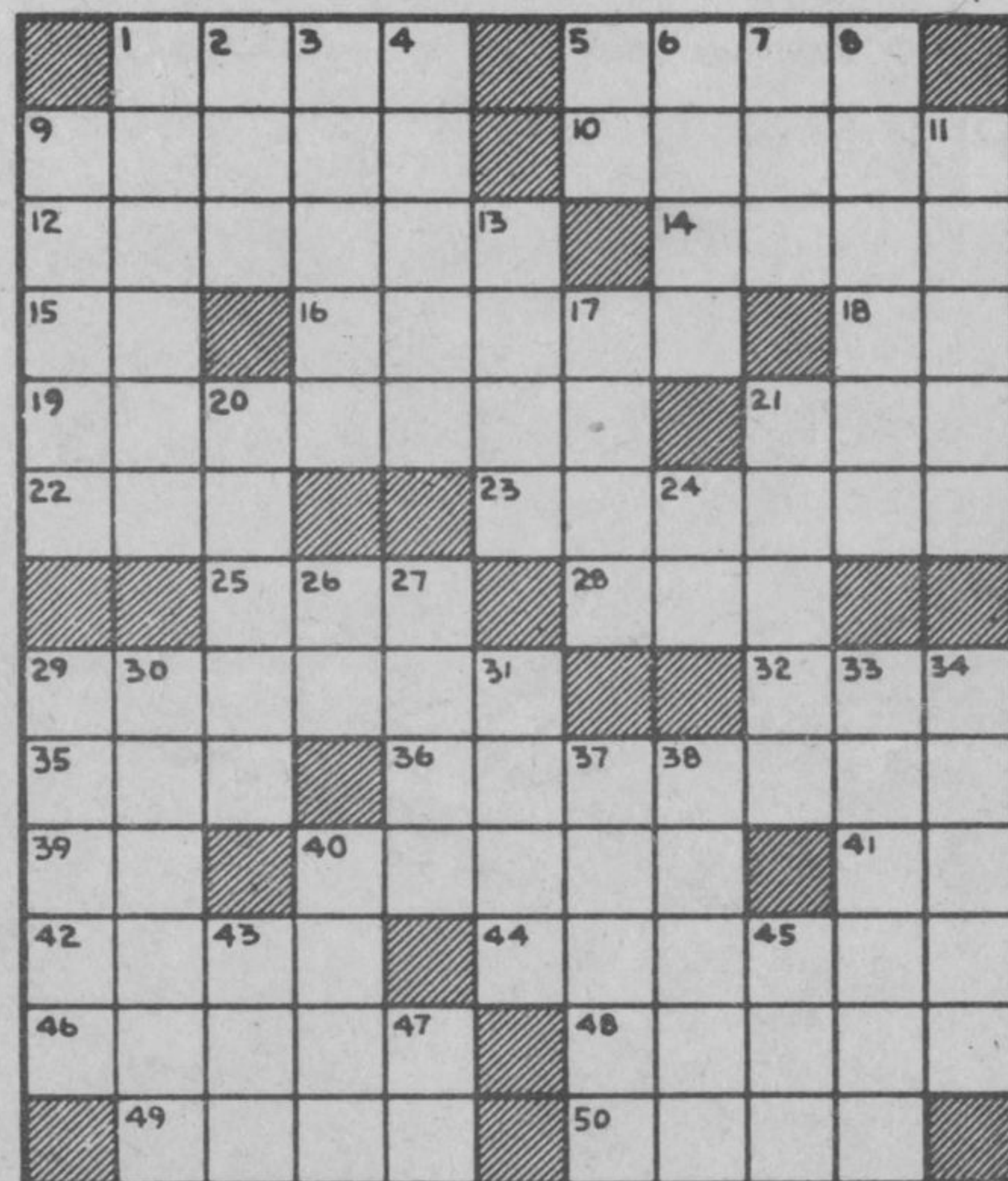
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
1. "Now — this"
 5. Word of regret
 9. Suit fabric
 10. Used a razor strop
 12. Ira Gershwin's forte
 14. Relative of elite
 15. Sales notice
 16. Minstrels' instruments
 18. Biblical city
 19. Like a slender candle
 21. Mine extract
 22. Give the once-over
 23. Recoiled, as in pain
 25. Eat at evening
 28. Playpen dweller
 29. Gnawed, as by a lion
 32. Guido's highest note
 35. Type measures
 36. Discovers
 39. Jewish month
 40. Schoolbook holder
 41. Look — that!
 42. American Indian
 44. Place side by side
 46. Throws
 48. The senior
 49. Elongated fish
 50. Recognizes
- DOWN**
1. Time of greatest strength
 2. Blunder
 3. Well-co-ordinated
 4. Repeat
 5. Exclamation
 6. Cuts short
 7. Cuckoo
 8. Without anxiety
 9. Group of nominees
 11. Challenged
 13. Mulligan
 17. Cut copy
 20. Hang-ers-on
 21. Choral group
 24. Refusal
 26. Guido's lowest note
 27. Trapper's prize
 29. Kind of umbrella
 30. Saturate
 31. Irish for Eleanor
 33. Realty contracts
 34. Late summer flower

Today's Answer



37. Opera wear
38. Doctor deterrent
40. Broker's advice
43. Before
45. Poem of praise
47. Diamond position



JACKFISH — NORTHERN PIKE

The fighting jackfish provides sport for countless thousands of rod and reelers. Found continent-wide, it is abundant in marshy lakes where creeks and channels give access. A predator of other fish, frogs, muskrats and ducklings. Low brood counts obtained by biologists on "jackfish" infested marshes and examination of fish stomachs, indicate that they can be a factor in poor duck production in certain areas.