SAVED VALUABLE LEGAL RECORDS FROM EARTHQUAKE AND FIRE

Theodore Kytka Did Great Service to Persons Involved When He Persisted in Guarding Negatives From Destruction or Injury.

Like the scenes and incidents of Lytton's "Last Days of Pompeii," or Sienkiewitz's "Quo Vadis," runs the story of saving the records of hundreds of criminal and civil cases from the ravages of flames and earthquake at San Francisco, as told by Theodore Kytka, handwriting expert employed by numerous state and municipal governments in cases that range from the smallest civil suit to the terrible Haymarket riots in Chicago years ago. At present he is at the Portland with Mrs. Kytka, making this city a brief visit.

For more than 20 years the decipherer of forged handwriting has been waging war against the greatest criminals in the United States. The Fair will case, the Davis will case, the Botkin murder case, the "Sir Henry" Cooper forgery case, the George D. Collins bigamy case, the great Carl Becker forgery and hundreds of other cases have come to Kytka

Theodore Kytka.

for solution and never once has his employers had cause to regret paying him $25 a day and expenses or the municipalities $100 a day and expenses for the work they have entrusted to his care.

When the first tremors of the great earthquake shock roused the sleeping thousands in San Francisco Kytka was awake. For he had an aviary in which he kept 250 finches, including six specimens that had never been classified, and he was always astir at daybreak feeding his pets. While leaning out of the window and throwing the birds their morning food, he was interrupted by the tremblors. He realized at once what a city shaken to her foundations, with water mains torn asunder, would mean. Fourteen years before the old chief of the fire department had told him what would result if San Francisco should be visited by a great earthquake. So, without a moment's hesitation, he commenced saving the records which had a distinct bearing upon the lives of never persons, the freedom of 30 criminals before, whom yawned the walls of the penitentiaries ready to enclose them for life or long terms, while included in the records was evidence which would decide the fate of dozens of lesser criminals and the disposition of millions of dollars worth of property.

There is a law in California, as there is in the federal statutes, which says that when the original records are destroyed the negatives made of the originals by a photographic expert shall take their place. Kytka had these records—wagon loads of them—and his first thought was to save them and find that justice might be dealt to those concerned.

At Twin Peak, not far from Kytka's home, a contractor had removed a large quantity of sand and gravel—had made, in fact, a sheltered nook against the side of the hill. Kytka decided that he would store his records there. So with the assistance of several boys from his laboratories and his servant girls he commenced the work of transporting the valuable glass negatives to the fire protected spot. For more than 40 hours they carried the heavy plates up the 11 blocks of the steep hillside. Without sleep and food they labored that the criminals should be punished for their misdeeds and the legatees of the millionaires might come honestly into their own.

Kytka had made in his laboratory negatives which were more than two feet square and these were nailed on heavy wooden frames, some of which were nearly 20 feet square, and which could be wheeled into court and show plainly the forged names and wills. He had several of these in his yard and they were taken to the hillside spot and from them two wooden shacks were built, which not only sheltered the records, but provided a home for the expert and wife, and his entourage as well, which at one time numbered as high as 23 persons.

Worked Day and Night.

Although he had stepped on a piece of broken glass in his dining-room soon after the first shock, Kytka labored on without stopping to heal the wound, save to remove the jagged piece of glass from his foot. For three days and nights he labored, and with his helpers, lived like animals, he says. Then the fire stopped, order was beginning to follow the chaos that permeated the stricken city, and he found that his studio and laboratory had not been destroyed.

But the city and police records had been lost in the earthquake and fire. None of the originals had been saved from the $7,000,000 city hall, nor had the lawyers been able to gather from the ruins of their magnificent offices the records or transcripts of the cases. Kytka had them, so it was no wonder that Carter P. Pomeroy, the attorney for Davis' sister, who had been fighting for the estate, which involved $2,500,000, should come to him with tears in his eyes and say:

"Kytka, you shall be remembered for this."

And Kytka was remembered, for he sent in a bill for $40,000 for his services, and it was immediately honored.

Then came the task of moving back to the shacks carrying his art studio to the records over which he had stood guard with rifle and shot gun against the attacks of the pillagers, for more than a week. Four large drays, were employed in taking back the stacks of negatives and records which Kytka and his boys had laboriously carried up the steep hill on their heads and in their arms.

What became of the beautiful finches? Well, when the soldiers told Kytka that the fires were too close to his studio to permit him entrance, the handwriting expert, believing that his studio, laboratory and aviary were about to burn, begged that he be permitted to save his feathered friends. He was denied the privilege. But rather than leave the songsters to perish in the flames, Kytka rushed past the guards and smashed in the plate glass covering with an axe and watched with satisfaction the flying of birds that had been wont to wake him in the early morning with their songs.

EVERYONE KNOWS SKIDOO ANSWER BUT SOLUTIONS ALL DIFFERENT

Harry T. Biggs of Astoria, writes to the puzzle editor as follows:
"I desire to say that the problem of the pennies is too easy for any but kindergarten children. I got the correct answer first trial—23 pennies—23 boxes—and me for the first prize. It's just as easy as falling into the river here. But why don't you offer a prize for the best answer to this: 'How should skidoo be pronounced?' There's a poser, and I bet you my prize for the best solution of the pennies-in-the-box solution that you can't tell."

Harry starts on a very distressing assumption—that the puzzle editor would bet; to bet is gambling, gambling is very chancey; to take chances inculcates bad habits, and a bad habit is the thief of character. The puzzle editor does not bet. And, besides, he does not know how to pronounce skidoo.

Sam Friedlander, who is an authority on words, says skidoo is pronounced skid-oo, with the accent on the first syllable. Donald Bowles says the word should be spelled with two d's—skiddoo, and the accent is on the "doo." George Baker insists that it is skidu, the u pronounced as it is in rue. Mr. Pangle says he is too busy trying to solve the problem to waste time on the pronunciation.

Answers From Everywhere.

Apparently many people agree with Mr. Pangle, as answers to the famous skidoo problem are coming from all parts of the Oregon country. There is enough diversity in the solutions to make them interesting; much of the pleasure found by those who have sent in solutions is the absolute cocksuredness of the mathematicians. Up to date nearly 1,000 answers have been received; and notwithstanding the fact that no more than 25 people have agreed on the same solution, all are willing to make affidavit that their answer is the right one. And still there is but one correct solution to the skidoo problem; for the correct and best solution The Journal will give $1,000 bright, new pennies; other prizes are handsome "23" scarf pins, and packages of 23 new pennies. Here are some of the answers received today:

How It Looks to Miss Mosher.

Puzzle Editor—My answer to the "skidoo" problem is: There were 23 boxes, one penny in each box, making a total of 23 pennies.
HAZEL MOSHER.
294 28th st., Astoria, Or.

Only Twenty-Three Coppers.

Puzzle Editor—The answer to skidoo problem is the boy had 23 pennies, and put one penny in each box.
F. WALLACE STEPHENSON.
615½ Jefferson St., city.

Says He's Correct.

Puzzle Editor—The correct solution of your skidoo problem is as follows: There were 23 boxes, one in each of the 23 boxes and the number 23 can be divided by any number by 2 or 22.
HARRY CUMMINGS,
National Hotel, Portland.

(second column)

Or 11, which gives me always one remainder and none if divided by 23.
ERNEST SCHWEDLER,
Gresham, Or.

Thinks He Is Right.

Puzzle Editor—My answer to the "skidoo" puzzle is that the boy placed in each of the 23 boxes 30,364,247 pennies, a total of 698,377,681 pennies. Proof of the correctness of the answer is that the above total is the smallest number divisible by each number from 2 to 22 inclusive with a remainder of only one, and by 23 with no remainder.
F. R. M., Fremont.

This Sounds Convincing.

Puzzle Editor—There were 253 pennies. The puzzle reads there will be a remainder of one—only one—which might be 11, 2 to 22 is the same relation (namely 11) as 23 is to 253, which is 11½. Therefore, he had 11 pennies in each box, and 23 boxes, making a total of 253 pennies.
MRS. E. L. DIXON,
University Park, Or.

Dowling May Have It.

Puzzle Editor—The answer to the "skidoo" problem is this: There are 506 pennies in all, and there are 23 boxes, with 22 pennies in each box.
GEORGE DOWLING,
269 Pine St.

M. Duncan Calls It Puzzle.

Puzzle Editor—Here is your "skidoo" explained: the only way it can be done: Therefore the answer given when it is not a mathematical proposition; it is a puzzle.
J. DUNCAN,
Shedd, Or.

Mr. Carmody Tries Again.

Puzzle Editor—I beg to submit a second answer to your skidoo problem, one more correct, inasmuch as it is a smaller number, viz.: 931,170,240,901.
D. T. CARMODY,
467¼ Hood St., city.

How This Result Was Reached.

Puzzle Editor—The number of pennies was 58,198,141. I found this answer by taking every number from 23 up that would balance even when divided by 23 until I found the one that all the numbers from 2 to 22, inclusive, would divide and leave only one for a balance.
MRS. MARGARET BORNEMAN,
179 Russell St., City.

"Skidoo George's" Solution.

Puzzle Editor—I find the correct number to be 299 pennies, 13 pennies in 23 boxes.
SKIDOO GEORGE,
County Jail.
(This is the answer given by G. L. Blodgett, who passes the time left to him in the jail by trying to solve the remarkable Skidoo problem.)

What a School Girl Thinks.

Puzzle Editor—I am a school girl of 14. My father called my attention to the "Skidoo" problem. I find that after going higher that 23 you can go up into millions and yet place an equal quantity in each of the 23 boxes. Consequently if the number is a problem in reality there is but one solution. The father was disgusted when he said to the boy "Skidoo—23" for you. The scolding penetrated the boy's think place, then the boy figured 23 times 1 is 23. So he put one penny in each box; 23 was the number of pennies placed before the boy.
BELLROIE ADCOX,
Dufur, Or.

Just Plain Multiplication.

Puzzle Editor—I find 529 is the answer to the Skidoo puzzle. The way I found the answer was by multiplying 23 times 23, which gives 529 pennies. There were 23 pennies in each box.
IVA ILIFF,
818 Russell Street, City…

Sounds Easy and Good.

Puzzle Editor—My answer to the Skidoo problem is 23 pennies. If the boy had two boxes and put 11 pennies in each box he would have one remaining, and if he had 23 boxes and put one in each box there would be none remaining, making the answer 23.
ALICE ROYER,
St. Johns.

Lost Sleep, But Got an Answer.

Puzzle Editor—After losing some sleep I figure there were 22 pennies in each of 23 boxes, making a total of 529 pennies; any number from 2 to 22 will leave one over by dividing same. It won't be necessary to send me the prize money immediately, as I won't be able to count same, my fingers still being a trifle sore from adding—I count on my fingers.
ARTHUR METZGER,
255 West Park Street, City.

This Sounds Plausible, Doesn't It?

Puzzle Editor—I find the answer to the Skidoo Problem to be 253. Simply add all the figures from 1 to 22, inclusive, and you have 253, which, if divided by any number from 2 to 22 leaves a balance of 1, but if divided by 23 gives us an answer 11. So he had 23 boxes and put 11 pennies in each box; 23 by 11 equals 253.
W. A. EASTBURN,
Albany, Oregon.

This Makes the Boy Rich.

Puzzle Editor—I find the answer to the Skidoo Problem is 698,377,681.
WILLIS HARGREAVES,
307½ First street, city.

Skidoo 23 for You! Huh?

Puzzle Editor—The boy had 69 pennies and he put 3 pennies in each of the 23 boxes.
GEORGE KERR,
3282 East Sixth street, city.

Just Seven in a Box.

Puzzle Editor—If the son put an odd number of pennies in 23 boxes, and the same amount in each, he would have to put 7 in each box, which…would be 161 pennies, the amount the father gave his son for solving the problem.
A. GRUMBLING,
284 Main street, city.

Over Fifty Million Pennies.

Puzzle Editor—I think that the answer to the Skidoo Problem is 58,198,141 pennies.
H. BISBEE…

Gets the Worth of His Money, Eh?

Puzzle Editor—The only way I can solve the problem is: He had only 25c and brought a Journal for 2c and had the skidoo number 23.
MASTER ALVA LELAND LAKOUT,
209 Meade street, city.

Philosophy of a Mathematician.

Puzzle Editor—The answer to your problem is 698,377,681, although there may be other numbers which are right also. If this is not right skidoo; 23 for me.
51 North Second street, city.

Millions in 'Em.

Puzzle Editor—Herein is correct answer to Skidoo Problem: The least number of pennies that will satisfy all the conditions of the problem is 343,734,077,162,697,921. Each of the 23 boxes contained 15,570,264,224,465,127. This sum is exactly divisible by the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. Thus the problem is completely solved and will satisfy all the conditions of the problem.

MARION'S TAX ROLL HAS SWOLLEN ENORMOUSLY

From Ten and a Quarter Millions to Twenty-Eight and a Half —Huge Increase.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Nov. 20.—The work of footing up the assessment roll for Marion county has been completed. The total valuation of the different kinds of property is $28,564,596, while that of the assessment of 1905 was only $10,256,178.

No exemption was allowed in assessing the property for 1906.

In 1905 there were in the county 175,523 acres of tillable land and 442,969 acres of non-tillable lands.

This year shows the acreage in tillable land to be 196,643, and that of non-tillable land to be 315,672.

There was also a marked increase in the number of telegraph and telephone lines, from 342 in 1905 to 509 in 1906.

MORROW COUNTY HAS GAINED MUCH WEALTH

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Heppner, Or., Nov. 20.—Assessor Conner has just completed the assessment of Morrow county tax roll for 1906. It makes a splendid showing compared with that of last year, showing a total valuation of $12,629,942 an increase of about $200,000 over that of last year. The assessment was made on a one-third valuation. Of the increase about $60,000 is on account of there being no exemption this year.

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