

Some Miscellaneous Puzzles

- (1) Whoever of the 6 children would come closest to guessing the number of coins contained in a piggy-bank was promised the whole contents by their father. The 6 guesses were 50, 47, 40, 53, 37, and 30. Of these, one child was 9 out, another 4, and the others 1, 6, 11 and 12. Can you tell from this information how many coins there must have been in the bank?
- (2) A newspaper ran a twin-matching contest in their paper. They printed pictures of 100 people over a period of a few weeks. Whoever got the most twins matched was offered a large prize. When the contest was over, 98.1% had four or more sets wrongly matched. The number of entries with 3 sets wrong was 18 more than the number that had 1 set wrong. The number with 2 sets wrong was the same as the number that submitted perfect answers. If the circulation of the newspaper was less than 4 000, how many people entered the contest.
- (3) Using the Boolean Algebra from August 2, 2009, one can solve this puzzle:

“There is a Jack Brent that got married down in Dallas,” remarked Sam, looking up from his paper. “That must be Joe’s son. Same name and he is 21.” Gwen shook her head. “It’s quite a while and you’ve forgotten” she told her husband. “His son is Jim, and he would be 18 by now”. Ann had never met the Brents, but she had heard plenty about them. “His name certainly wasn’t Jack,” she informed her mother. “Anyways he’s at least 25 by now.”

Of course all three were wrong one way or another, but each had made a correct statement about either the age or the name. So, how old is Jack’s son, and what was his name? (Hint: let Jack = a, Jim = b, and ‘not Jack’ = c).

Have fun, answers next week.

Answers to Last Week’s Puzzles

We have looked at these type of problems before (Sunday, June 21). Here are some more. The idea is that each puzzle is one where each letter represents a digit from 0 to 9. Once a digit is assigned to a letter, then no other letter can be that same digit. The letter “O” can be any digit, it is not necessarily equal to “0”. So, “O = 8” could be an answer. The four puzzles below are all addition puzzles. When all letters are replaced by their respective digits, then the addition should actually work. None of the numbers have a “0” as the first digit.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (1) \quad \text{RMM} \quad \quad 155 \\
 \text{OUR} \quad \quad 241 \\
 \text{RMM} \quad \quad 155 \\
 \text{OUR} \quad \quad 241 \\
 \hline
 \text{RMM} \quad \quad 155 \\
 \text{FUN} \quad \quad 947
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (2) \quad \text{HAM} \quad \quad 932 \quad \quad \quad 763 \\
 \hline
 \text{EGGS} \quad \quad 1447 \quad \quad \quad 2884 \quad \quad \text{etc.} \\
 \text{MASH} \quad \quad 2379 \quad \quad \quad 3647
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (3) \quad \text{DOG} \quad \quad 123 \quad \quad \quad 125 \quad \quad \quad 134 \\
 \hline
 \text{CAT} \quad \quad 689 \quad \quad \quad 687 \quad \quad \quad 579 \quad \quad \quad \text{etc.} \\
 \text{ADO} \quad \quad 812 \quad \quad \quad 812 \quad \quad \quad 713
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 (4) \quad \text{BEAVER} \quad \quad 251453 \\
 \hline
 \text{TIGER} \quad \quad 60753 \\
 \text{RABBIT} \quad \quad 312206
 \end{array}$$