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THE DAILY QUEST

All the news that's fit to ignore.

BUSINESS

RETIRED ACCOUNTANT DISCOVERS HOBBY CANNOT BE ENTERED INTO SPREADSHEET

Fishing expedition produces no fish, but comprehensive financial records.

By The Daily Quest Business Desk

After 38 years of balancing books, Bernard Ellis decided last week that retirement was an excellent opportunity to take up fishing.

His wife, Helen, suggested he find something relaxing to do outdoors.

Bernard purchased a fishing rod, two containers of bait, a folding chair and a small tackle box. He also bought a notebook, although Helen pointed out that he already owned several.

On Thursday, Bernard spent four hours beside Miller's Pond.

He caught absolutely nothing.

Nevertheless, he returned home looking rather pleased with himself.

"How was it?" Helen asked.

"Interesting. I think I've got some figures worth looking at."

By supper, Bernard had prepared a spreadsheet detailing equipment costs, bait consumption, fuel expenses and the estimated depreciation of his fishing rod.

He calculated that his first fishing trip had resulted in a net loss of $47.60.

"That's without factoring in my time," he explained.

Helen glanced at the spreadsheet.

"Did you enjoy yourself?"

Bernard stared at her.

"I hadn't included that column."

He has since added a new category marked Personal Satisfaction.

For Thursday's outing, he entered "Very Good."

Bernard plans to go fishing again next week.

TODAY'S WEATHER

FORECAST: November has arrived without consulting anyone.

TEMPERATURE: Lower than advertised.

OFFICIAL ADVICE: The jacket is no longer optional.

THE DAILY ASSIGNMENT

OPERATION: THE UNSCHEDULED HOUR

The Daily Quest Business Desk has reviewed the numbers and determined that not every hour of your life needs to produce a measurable return.

Find one hour this week that doesn't already belong to work, chores or appointments.

Use it for something you genuinely enjoy.

Take a walk. Visit a café. Work on a puzzle. Try fishing. Learn something completely unnecessary.

You don't have to finish anything.

You don't even have to be particularly good at it.

BONUS CREDIT: Resist the urge to turn your afternoon into a productivity goal.

Personal satisfaction is not currently subject to depreciation.

COMMUNITY

EVELYN COOPER STARTS WALKING CLUB WITHOUT KNOWING IT

Original membership consisted of one woman and a dog.

By The Daily Quest Community Desk

Evelyn Cooper began taking morning walks last month because her doctor recommended more exercise and her dog, Pickles, had become noticeably round.

The arrangement suited them both.

They walked to the bakery, bought a small treat, and returned home by the park.

Then Evelyn's neighbour Ruth asked if she could come along.

The following morning, Ruth brought her sister.

By Friday, twelve people and four dogs were following Evelyn down Maple Street.

"I don't know how this happened," Evelyn said. "I only wanted to buy a muffin."

The group has since established a regular departure time, a preferred route and a committee responsible for selecting alternative routes in wet weather.

At a meeting Tuesday evening, members voted unanimously to appoint Evelyn president.

Evelyn did not attend.

She had gone for a walk.

Pickles, meanwhile, has lost half a pound.

Evelyn has gained three new muffin recommendations.

FAMILY & LEISURE

FAMILY COMPLETES 1,000-PIECE PUZZLE, DISCOVERS EXTRA PIECE

Three generations refuse to admit defeat.

By The Daily Quest Family & Leisure Desk

The Morrison family gathered Saturday afternoon to complete a jigsaw puzzle that had occupied their dining room table for the better part of six weeks.

The picture, a peaceful mountain landscape, had been a birthday gift to grandmother Alice Morrison, 74.

By four o'clock, the final piece was fitted into place.

There was cheering, a round of applause, and considerable discussion about who had completed the most difficult section.

Then Alice noticed another piece lying beside the box.

"What's that one?"

Nobody knew.

The family examined the completed puzzle. There were no gaps.

They checked the box, counted the pieces again, and spent twenty minutes searching for an explanation.

Alice's grandson eventually pointed out that the extra piece appeared to show part of a lighthouse.

There were no lighthouses in the mountain landscape.

Alice studied it for a moment.

"Well, it's been with us this long."

The family has decided to keep it.

It now sits in a small frame beside the finished puzzle, labelled Our Favourite Piece.

Alice has ordered another puzzle.

This one has 2,000 pieces.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

AN APOLOGY TO MR. WHITMORE

In our previous edition, we reported that Edgar Whitmore had been haunting a local residence for 147 years.

Mr. Whitmore has contacted the newspaper to clarify that he has been haunting the property for precisely 146 years and 11 months.

He insists that accuracy matters.

The Daily Quest regrets the error.