



### INSPECTOR GENERALS' MISSIVE WEEK 24



Twenty-four weeks in then and schools about to go back even if we can't. The thunderstorms have receded (and removed the worst of the humidity) so golf is a bit more enjoyable. Masonic centres are gradually opening up and though there is no formal dining just yet, some bars are open with appropriate signage about taking care. Please try hard to observe the simple (though occasionally inconvenient) rules because a mistake could cost someone a fortnight at home instead of resuming work. I have Mark, Royal Arch and Craft meetings creeping up on me now so various ritual books are coming back out and replacing the ordinary fiction books I have been relaxing to. Much talk around though of the word "inquire" but I'm sure those responsible will be sorting it out. Our wonderful Order is yet to resume of course, but a 20-minute scan through the ritual (and the rubric) is never going to be wasted – familiarity always makes learning or re-learning easier.

Now for the Week 23 Answers: Steve Tunney and Stephen Knight were so nearly 10/10 but both missed it after some harsh marking, but others weren't far behind.

1. Grace died in a fire at Brookfield Farm in the Archers radio serial (or should that be wireless serial?). One reason was that the broadcast of her death (on 22nd September 1955) was designed to overshadow the launch of ITV on the same night. The reason it was Grace who was chosen to die is said to be because Godfrey Baseley didn't like actress Ysanne Churchman after she lobbied to be paid the same fee as the male members of the cast and to join the actor's union.
2. Ars Gratia Artis are the words above "Leo" in the MGM logo. The words are a Latin translation of a phrase credited to Théophile Gautier from 1835 and are said to mean "Art for Art's Sake". There have been 7 Leos so far, the most recent being used since 1957.
3. Nigel Tufnel, lead guitarist of Spinal Tap in the 1984 "rockumentary".
4. The Richter scale (for earthquakes) is a logarithmic scale in which an increase of 1 means the measured amplitude on a seismogram is increased by 10. The Beaufort scale (for wind speed) is much more linear in that the interval between successive Force numbers is broadly similar, varying between 3 kts from Force 1 to 2 and 2 to 3 and 5-6 knots from Force 4 to 5 to 6 to 7.
5. A stall in an aircraft is defined as the point at which the angle between the airflow and the chord line of the wing is increased such that the smooth airflow (required for lift) breaks down; the turbulent airflow reduces lift and increases drag and, usually, the nose "drops" and so does the aircraft. This is not a problem at altitude (and is often fun to initiate) but low down on the approach to landing the ground can get in the way of the recovery.
6. The chemical formula of Oxitriptan (a naturally occurring amino acid) is  $C_{11}H_{12}N_2O_3$ . If  $CO_2$  is taken out of that formula (and I had no idea if it was possible but apparently it's called

decarboxylation) one might get C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O which is serotonin – known as the “happy chemical” because it promotes well-being. It also helps memory and digestive motility although an excess is unlikely to be helpful.

7. Mary Berry does Cakes, and Chess Slattery is a beer writer – together perhaps “Cakes and Ale” a 1930 book by Somerset Maugham.
8. L Frank Baum wrote several books about Dorothy Gale and the land of Oz. Her dog was called Toto which is another name for Caribbean Coconut Cake.
9. In 1266 Henry III directed that bread should be sold at a price determined by the price of wheat. Bakers (and brewers) were fined heavily or beaten if they sold underweight loaves and since it was difficult to bake identical loaves, bakers used to throw in an extra loaf or half-loaf to ensure they were not selling short measure. This meant a dozen plus a bit became a “baker’s dozen” and usually meant 13 loaves, a number which triskaidekaphobes dislike. An EU directive in 2009 released bakers from very restrictive loaf size rules so we can now buy any size of loaf and a dozen means 12 all the time.
10. We were told in the adverts for the privatisation of British Gas to “Tell Sid”.

#### Week 24 Questions:

1. What is the link between the “Scottish Play” and George VI?
2. Whose “Old Lie” was the subject of a Wilfred Owen poem?
3. How far due South (to the nearest 100 nautical miles) would I have to travel on 21st December this year to see the sun just failing to set at midnight local time?
4. An “uppercut” is a well-known boxing term but what is an “undercut”?
5. What is the main difference between a Nissen and a Quonset?
6. How much did Pete Mitchell’s helmet go for?
7. Who became Holy Roman Emperor through marrying his wife?
8. Of how many independent United Nations states is HM Queen Elizabeth II the head of state?
9. Where would you expect to see a trachelion?
10. Where is the largest solar farm in England and what was the land’s previous use?

Do keep phoning each other and looking through the red book occasionally.

Stay Safe

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