Author foretold Titanic disaster 20 years before, says historian

By BRENDA WEEKS

Are you a sesquipedalian?

celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2017.

vehement; d) quick; e) amenable

d) pleasing to the ear; e) spurious

maps; d) fossils; e) precious stones

marriage; e) marriage within a tribe

d) hold tenaciously; e) move quickly

and a half; "ped" - foot).

of this column.

ward; e) glaring

agitated; e) processional

WORD POWER

By BILL SHERK

person who is addicted to the use of big words. "Sesquipedalian" literally means "a foot and a half" (from Latin: "sesqui" — one

University of Toronto celebrates its sesquicentennial (one and a

half centuries old). For those who like to plan ahead, Canada will

hole in our language between unilingual and bilingual. If you now

speak one language and have spent years studying another

language but have not yet gained complete fluency in it, then you

are sesquilingual, as are millions of other people around the

have to relax the rigid quantity of "one and a half" and apply

"sesquilingual" generally to anyone who knows one language and

a sizable portion of another. Even the term "bilingual" cannot be

closest in meaning to the key word. Answers appear at the bottom

nailed down with complete exactitude in every case.

But how do you measure half a language? It's here that we

And now this week's test. Underline that choice which comes

1) resilient — a) capable of quick recovery; b) ambiguous; c)

2) usurp — a) drink hastily; b) eat hastily; c) seize by force;

3) egregious — a) sociable; b) talkative; c) insipid; d) for-

4) desultory -a) hot and humid; b) rambling; c) vague; d)

5) euphonious — a) conterfeit; b) discordant; c) monotonous;

6) etymologist — one who: a) studies words; b) studies in-

8) entomologist — one who studies: a) reptiles; b) insects; c)

9) deuterogamy — a) husbands and wives in common; b) one

10) entasis — a) skin ailment; b) grammatical error; c) ar-

husband, several wives; c) one wife, several husbands; d) second

sects; c) writes treatises; d) records time; e) coins new words 7) plethora — a) network of blood-vessels; b) vote on a

specified issue; c) dearth; d) lung disease; e) oversupply

No, that's not a rare breed of tropical reptile. That's simply a

'Sesqui' as a prefix will be widely used next year when the

And now for "sesquibilingual" - a word that fills a gaping

author wrote of an ocean liner being sunk in the North Atlantic Twenty years before the Titanic named Titan, whose dimentions sank in the North Atlantic, an approximated those of the Titanic, Fate had doomed the great sank in the North Atlantic, and approximated those of the Titanic,

Fate had doomed the great ship, William Tantum IV told an audience of approximately 100 people in Bearpit 2, Thursday.

'The fictional Titan sunk in the Atlantic one cold April night after striking an iceberg exactly as did the Titanic in real life some years later," he claimed.

Tantum, who is presently marine historian and vicepresident of the Titanic Historical Society of Connecticut, stressed in his talk on ESP and Death, that the Titanic had been built to be unsinkable and was thought to be so without reservation.

"With a passenger list of some 2,200, the Titanic had only enough life boats for 1,200", Tantum stated. "And yet, when she hit the iceberg, she didn't have a chance, going down in an hour and a half with only 700 people saved.

"After that great shock, man learned that even with all his new technology, nothing could be unsinkable on the treacherous seas. It was a very sobering act of fate," he said.

Delving into the trivial, Tantum told of the women in the life boats holding on to a lucky toy pig, which played only until the rescue ship finally arrived.

The wife of the captain of the Titanic awoke in a nightmarish fit after dreaming her husband was drowning in a stormy ocean, the very night of the disaster. The captain is supposed to have gone down with his ship, he told the

Tantum also showed a collection of personal interviews in his film The Titanic and her Survivors, of which two characters stood out. A ship's steward got dead drunk the night of the sinking, feel overboard, and yet managed to survive. A wealthy female survivor of the ship went on to eventually sail on the Lusitania on her last voyage, and survive that shinking as well.

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ANSWERS: 1a), 2c), 3e), 4b), 5d), 6a), 7e), 8b), 9d), 10c). Classified Ads

chitectural device; d) parasite; e) musical interlude.

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