



## #60 *The First Mechanization*



*There once was a village of racoons who grew corn in the field and caught crayfish in the lake. The corn growers traded corn with the fishers for crayfish. They had lived this way for as long as their stories remembered. One day, one very clever racoon invented a way to mechanize the process of handling the corn.*

*The inventor boasted that his way would increase profit and reduce loss of corn. His workers were instructed to sort the corn into bins, handling them with wooden boards. They were told to focus on the work of sorting, and not to waste time talking to the fishers. Soon, the corn racoons lost touch with their friends the fisher racoons. Using boards and bins also reduced the amount they handled the corn itself. This continued for some time. Finally, the workers spoke up and confronted the inventor, “We won’t work like this any further. Your methods of mechanization may eliminate some work, but they make our labor seem like drudgery. We have lost touch with our friends and our corn. It is we who have become mechanized.”*

*MECHANIZATION CAN PREVENT US FROM  
STAYING IN TOUCH*