

**WINNING NATIONAL TITLE** in Veterans of Foreign Wars tenth annual marble tournament at Tallahassee, Fla., Richard Austin, Los Alamitos, Calif., gets royal salute from Queen Helen Kelly. (International Soundphoto)

## A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS  
United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — Humanity likely will have achin' backs until push buttons produce jellified spines.



Harman Nichols

That may take a million years, and even then man's worries will not be over. His care then may be finger bunions caused by pushing buttons.

Seriously, the hurting up and down the spine mostly is man's own fault.

The Northwestern National Life Insurance company, which polled orthopedic doctors on the subject, says these fellows report that half their patients hurt somewhere along the spine. By far, the medicos say, the number one cause is posture. Too many people are sitting, sleeping, working, lifting, and driving the wrong way.

As one doctor put it: "The posture habits of most Americans is pretty awful." This expert on what ails our

rear column thinks it would be fine if we would start with the young. If taught the correct posture early, he said, "it would save a lot of misery in later life." Most back troubles occur in people over 40, he said.

The medical men describe the spine as "a pretty weak piece of engineering . . . a makeshift adaptation forced by the odd human habit of running around on two feet instead of on all fours."

They add that to hold the trunk upright, the spine has to form an "S-curve, which even a freshman engineering student will tell you is a pretty weak setup."

So here, from the doctors who know their spines, are some suggestions for standing up straight, sitting down correctly and the like to make for more comfortable living:

When you stand, lift the chest and pull the belly in—it reduces that vulnerable swayback. Sit the same way, with the lower back against the back of the chair. Perching on a foot can cause a lot of misery. Don't sleep on your tummy.

Indianapolis—(U.P.)—The "baseball look" is inconsistent with the dignity of the police force here, according to Chief Frank A. Mueller. Mueller used these words in blasting the recent practice among patrolmen of cutting off their new summer shirts from elbow length sleeves to very short or no sleeves. Patrolmen were ordered to buy new shirts if they are not able to find a way to replace the missing sleeves.

On your side, instead, with knees bent, or on your back, with a small pillow under the knees. Too soft or sagging beds are enemies of the backbones; a firm mattress is recommended, laid on a board or a solid box spring.

When you lift, let the knees do most of the work. Keep the back as upright as possible.

Check your automobile seat. If it tends to "jackknife" you, it doesn't do your back any good.

Ed: I once had a midget car which brought me down with a horrible pain in the rear. First thing the doc asked me was what kind of car I had. I took him around the block and he said the seat was slanted wrong. It was corrected and I straightened up and drove right. Slept pretty good, too. Still do, in fact.

## Italians Plan To Change Riding Habits of Americans

New York—(U.P.)—Two Italian manufacturers have invaded the United States with a deluxe line of motor scooters and plan to change the riding habits of millions of families.

Their chances of success are good enough, they figure, to make a substantial investment very worthwhile.

One of the manufacturers, Pignaggio & Co. of Genoa, is already selling 500 of its motor scooters a week in the United States. The other producer, Innocenti, is not far behind in sales.

The two companies claim they have a fertile market here among suburbanites, farmers, housewives and the 30,000,000 families who own one car and could use another but can't afford it.

Motor scooters, they point out, sell for about \$400, have a top speed of 50 miles an hour and travel more than 100 miles on a single gallon of fuel.

In Europe, where gasoline is expensive and transportation difficult, motor scooters have been a huge success. They are commonly used by doctors, clergy-

men, office and factory workers for store deliveries and even for family outings.

**Businessmen Show Interest**

Recently American businessmen have begun to show practical interest in them. A steel company president, on first seeing them in Rome, ordered several three wheeled models for his Pennsylvania plant. He says they cut costs considerably by releasing larger trucks from the smaller tasks of plant delivery.

In India, as part of a government program to eliminate human rickshaw runners, scooters with a station wagon attachment are becoming widely used.

### FREAK ACCIDENT

Orient, S.D.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Dave Mord was watching her son pilot his small plane when he flew under a wire upon landing and accidentally struck and snapped another. The severed wire struck Mrs. Mord on the neck and disrupted power and telephone service for two hours. She suffered minor injuries.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday, other days 5:30 previous day.

The 300-boat Great Lakes ore fleet carried 87,460,000 tons of iron ore south from the Minnesota-Wisconsin fields in 1955.

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## Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

Here's another helping of boners, whoppers, definitions, questions-and-answers submitted by readers of this column.

A city boy was asked by his teacher to write on the subject "geese." This is his answer: "Geese is a low, heavy set bird which is mostly meat and feathers. His head sits on one side and he sits on the other. Geese can't sing much on account of



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dampness of the moisture. He ain't got no between-the-toes and he's got a little balloon in his stomach to keep him from sinking.

"Some geese when they get big has curls on their tails and is called ganders. Ganders don't haff to sit and hatch but just eat and loaf and go swimming. If I was a goose I'd rather be a gander."

A label on a fishbox received in a Utah express office read: "If not delivered in 10 days . . . never mind."

Arizona teacher: "Where does the house fly go in winter?" Student: "It flies south."

An Alberta newspaper: "The blast started a fire which touched off a propane gas explosion." Oregon teacher: "Now class, can you tell me what a windmill is for?"

Up went a battery of frantically waving hands. Teacher: "Yes, Tommy, you tell us." Tommy: "It is to fan the cows and to keep them cool."

Sign on a Montana farm: "We shoot every third salesman. The second just left."

An Oakland, Calif., furniture store has this huge sign on its corner front reading: "Please give us more business or this corner will be a 19-cent hamburger joint."

**Horse Laid This One**  
At a Tacoma, Wash., playfield, a small boy rode up on a horse, dismounted, and the horse grazed while all the children crowded around to admire. Two little boys stood aside while one remarked that he had seen the same boy ride another horse the day before.

The second boy: "This horse is the other horse's . . ." (He stopped, not knowing how to finish the sentence because 'baby' would not fit, and then started with the other horse . . . "The other horse is this horse's . . ." and again he was stymied, knowing that 'mother' could not be right. Then he solved the dilemma: "The other horse laid this one . . .")

Johnny, whose father was a

painter, was asked by his Vancouver teacher to pronounce the word: "L-a-c-q-u-e-r." Trying to help him, his teacher prompted: "It's something your father uses, Johnny."

"Oh, I know," said Johnny, brightening: "Liquor."

Overheard: A customer had waited 15 minutes for the fish he had ordered. At last the waitress appeared. "Your fish will be here in five minutes," she promised. Another quarter hour passed and then the customer waved to the waiter and demanded: "Say, hadn't you better change your bait?"

An Oakland, Calif., grandmother reports this definition from her grandchild. She wrote: "When driving up Trestle Glen, I remarked that the trees still looked beautiful even though the leaves were falling. Up piped a little voice: 'But grandma, don't you know they are undressing?'"

**Award Winner**  
Finally (and this one wins the weekly award of the 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana):

The Yellowstone Park company hires bus drivers who frequently have to answer questions. When the bus stopped at the Paint Pots, a bubbling, steaming hot mud cauldron of a bluish-gray color, a tourist asked: "Driver, does this ever freeze over?"

Driver: "Yes ma'am. In fact last winter it froze over and a lady was skating on it and fell through and scalded her leg something fierce."

(To the reader sending in the biggest outdoor whopper will go a 30-volume set of the Encyclopedia Americana. And any outdoorsmen come by their truth-stretching naturally.)

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Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So? care Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

**NO PEEWEES**  
Valparaiso, Ind.—(U.P.)—Some thoughtless adults decided to call a league of young players in the first four grades of elementary schools here the Valparaiso Parks Peeewe Softball League. But the youngsters objected to being called Peeewe, so they changed the name to the Grade School league.

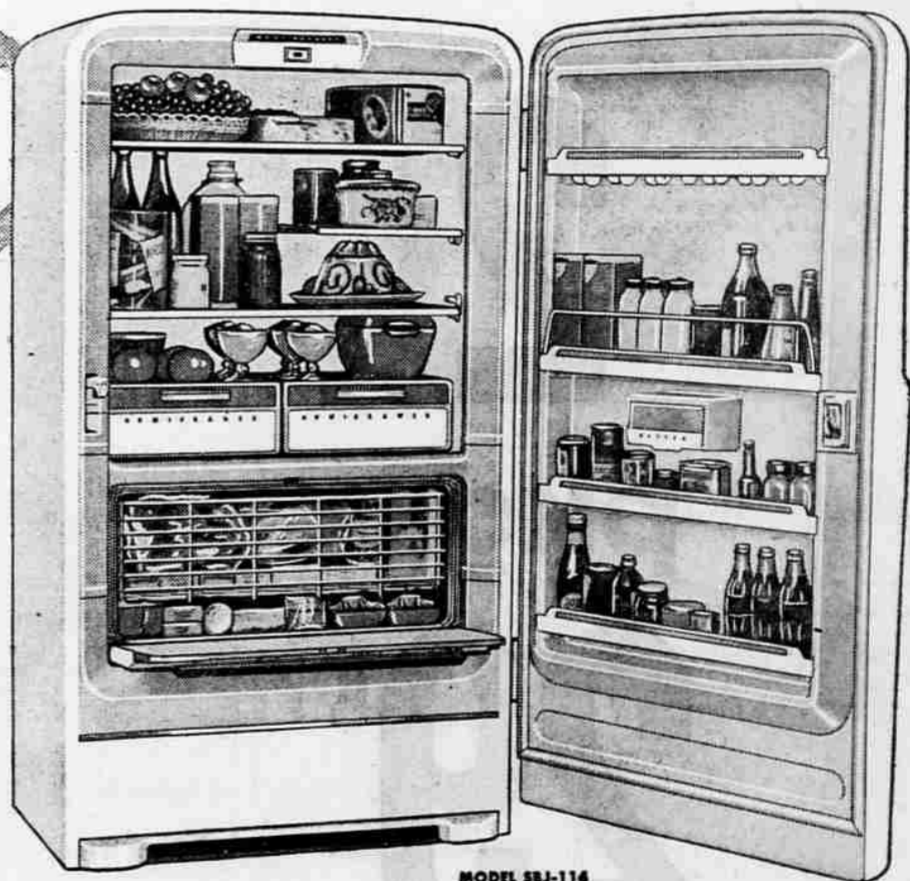
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