

OF SMITH & MEN

By Jack Smith
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Psychologists say that if you think you're losing your mind you're probably as sound as a nut.

In that case I have nothing to fear. I should laugh at my symptoms. But lately I've been unnerved a couple of times. When I went out on the porch this morning for the paper, the sun was over the rooftops. I sat on the step for a minute in my pajamas and threw my head back and shut my eyes.

The sun warmed my eyelids. I pulled up my pajama legs to warm my knees. I smiled. I drank in great gulps of morning air, windmilling my arms to improve my circulation.

In this ecstasy I failed to hear the approach of two small girls coming up the sidewalk on their way up the hill to grammar school. I became aware of them only as they were abreast of the porch.

"That's him!" said one. She delivered this intelligence in a stentorian whisper.

"It is?" whispered her companion. "He looks kookie, all right."

"Shhh!" said the first girl. They exploded in muffled giggling and broke into a trot up the hill.

So, I thought, I'm already the neighborhood eccentric. Kookie? I wasn't sure precisely what that meant. But I realized I was regarded as kookie, whatever it meant, and probably also a square, whatever that meant.

I went back in the house feeling gloomy. I was too young to be the neighborhood dingbat. When I was a boy that distinction was assigned to veterans of the Civil War or Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

I put on my old straw hat and lay down on the living room couch to read the news and shave.

"Why the hat?" my wife said.

"Because," I explained, "There's somebody in the bathroom and I can't get in to comb my hair which keeps falling down in my eyes so I can't see to shave."

"Oh," she said. She went in the kitchen, thinking. In a

moment she was back.

"But you're not using the mirror to shave," she said. "You're shaving with the electric razor and reading with your eyes."

I was utterly annoyed. "How," I asked acidly, "can I read when I haven't got my glasses on?"

They try to make you think you're crazy when you aren't. Nevertheless, I brooded all day about being thought kookie by the new generation.

Maybe this was on my mind down at the office when I put a piece of paper in the typewriter and, not being able to see what I was writing, put on my earphone. I use the earphone to take notes over the telephone.

As soon as I had put on the earphone I noticed that I couldn't see any better. Then I realized, of course, that what I really had meant to do was put on my glasses. I looked about. Apparently nobody had seen me.

I was pondering this lapse of normal behavior when the telephone rang. I was glad enough for the distraction.

I took off the earphone and put on my glasses and said "Hello." The line was dead.

"Hello? Hello?" I repeated. Then I realized I had my glasses on instead of my earphone.

I looked quickly about. A chap named Ames, who sits nearby and keeps an eye on me, was watching in speechless fascination. I took off my glasses and put on my earphone.

"Hello!" I shouted. The line was dead. They had hung up.

I glanced toward Ames. He gave me a small compassionate smile and looked away. He seemed embarrassed.

I got up casually and went to the water fountain to sharpen a cigarette.

LANDSLIDES KILL SIX
Manizales, Colombia - (UPI) - Landslides caused by a cloudburst in western Colombia swept away six houses in Caldas province Monday night, killing at least six and perhaps as many as 16 persons.



PREPARED TO FIGHT—Homeowners Jack Klein and his wife, Sally, stand in their yard in the Westlake subdivision of San Francisco, as they prepare to fight The Organization. The Organization—Westlake Subdivision Improvement has given the Kleins until Dec. 25 to yank out their newly-planted ivy from their front yard. It must be replaced with

a lawn like every other Westlake lawn. Klein angrily compared The Organization with the Gestapo and the Soviets and said he is going to take the matter to his attorney. He has \$300 invested in the ivy, and grass just will not grow in the yard, he said.

(UPI Telephoto)

Board To Consider Research Center

Portland - (UPI) - The State Board of Higher Education said Tuesday it would consider at its January meeting a proposal to place the Oregon Forest Research Center at Corvallis with Oregon State college under the State Board of Higher Education.

Board members generally indicated favorable response to the proposal, made Monday by members of the State Forest Protection and Conservation committee. The committee supervises the center. The proposal would involve action by the 1961 legislature.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Back Stairs: Elaborate Preparations

By WILLIAM J. EATON
Washington - (UPI) - Back stairs at the White House: President-elect John F. Kennedy will benefit immediately upon taking office from elaborate emergency plans drafted by the White House staff during the Eisenhower years. Under the current set-up, for example, the chief executive can be whisked off the White House lawn by helicopter within six minutes after an alert is sounded.

Kennedy and his advisers will also inherit a sheaf of proclamations prepared for use in case of an armed attack or other war emergency.

One of the features - provisions for a 16-man press-radio-TV pool to travel with the president to a relocation center - was inserted into plans at the insistence of James C. Hagerty, press secretary to Eisenhower.

Hagerty was surprised to learn that no provision had been made for emergency news coverage of the president during the Truman administration.

He proposed the pool system as a means of assuring the American people, through the familiar voices and names of White House correspondents, that the president was safe and the government was functioning.

It seems certain that the Kennedy administration will continue this policy.

Navy Capt. E. P. (Pete) Auland, the president's naval aide, played a major role in shaping the emergency plans. The extensive use of helicopters by the chief executive on trips to Gettysburg, Pa., and to airports in Washington gave on-the-job training to crews which would be used in a crisis situation.

To Assure Continuity

For that reason, White House aides have suggested that the president-elect designate his military aides as soon as possible to assure continuity in this department.

Col. William G. Draper, Air Force aide and White House pilot, is leaving soon for a new assignment. He has been flying the president around the nation.

The Army aide, Col. Robert Schulz, also served with the Chief Executive before he moved into the White House.

Special Duties
Each of the aides has special duties in addition to his ceremonial functions.

Draper is a pilot, Auland coordinates emergency plans and Schulz is the president's man for such matters as buying clothes and other personal transactions.

Traditionally, each of the military services recommends three top young officers for the military aide positions. Then the president makes the final selection from that list. Eisenhower, of course, had long experience in the military field and brought Schulz and Draper with him to Washington.

Uncooperative Stars Nominated

Hollywood - (UPI) - The Hollywood Women's Press club has announced it will resume its policy of giving mythical raspberries to uncooperative stars and promptly nominated five actors and actresses.

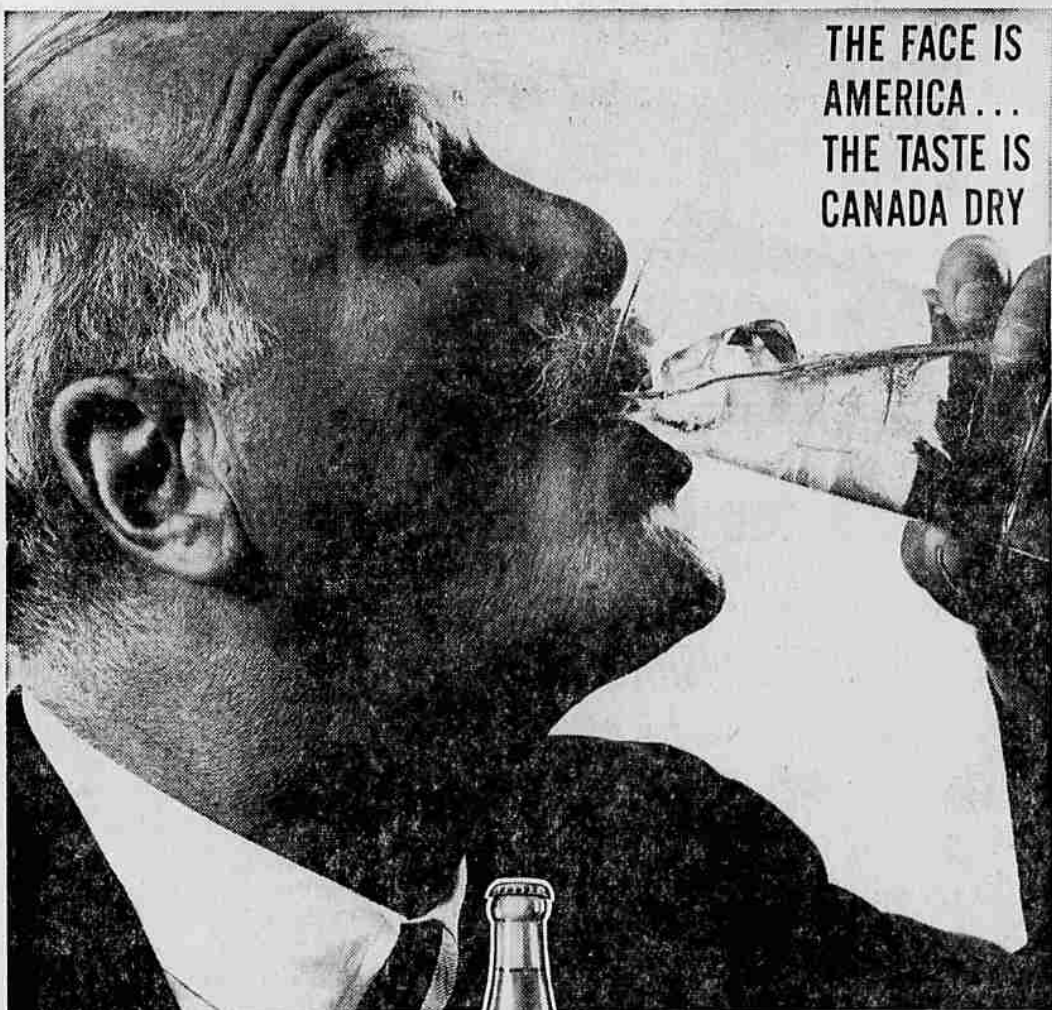
Nominees as the most uncooperative actors this year were Elvis Presley, James Garner and Yul Brynner.

The actresses tabbed were Marilyn Monroe and Debbie Reynolds.

The club said nominees for the 19th annual Golden Apple awards to filmland's most cooperative stars were Roger Smith, Jack Lemmon, Sandra Dee, Nanette Fabray and Janet Leigh.

Winners in both categories will be announced Dec. 20. The group said its "Sour Apple" designation had been dropped in 1955 and revived this year.

Portland - (UPI) - The Portland School Board has adopted a tentative budget of \$34.3 million for 1961-62 which would include salary increases of more than \$1 million.



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A Reminder

Christmas cards mailed? All your shopping finished? Packages wrapped? Tree-trimmings checked?

Well, take a deep breath, kick off your shoes, relax and... oh-oh-wait a minute! Check back over that list again. This won't take long - and it's well worth it.

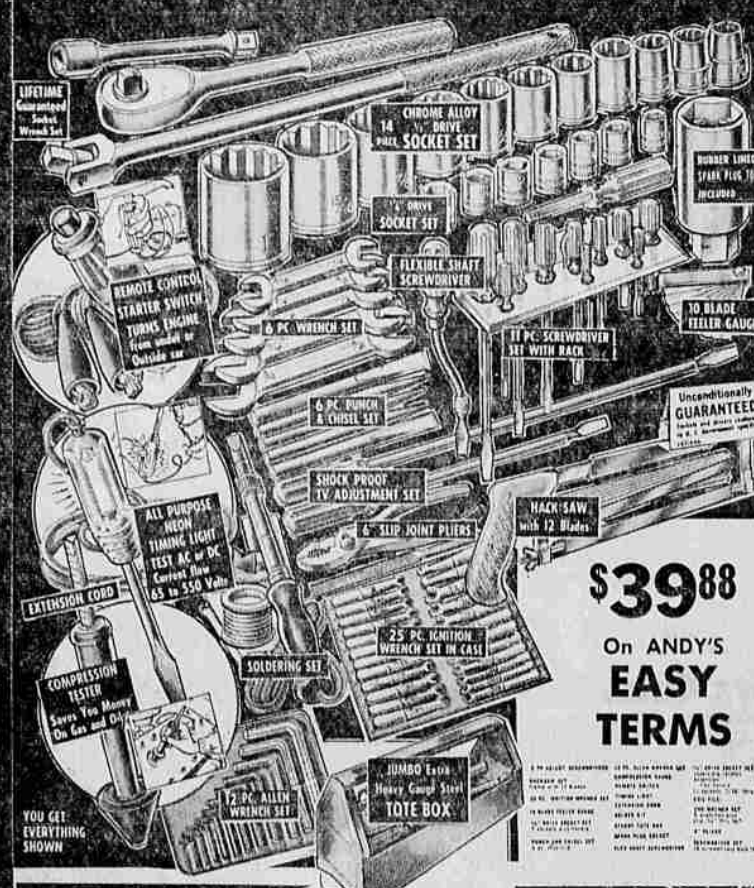
Have you done something about sharing your blessings with those who have less? Have you done what you can to see to it that in this community on Christmas Day there will be food for the hungry, remembrances for the lonely and forgotten?

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