

48 STATES OF MIND

By WALTER DAVENPORT

Several complaints about the quality of the coffee brewed by outdoor barbecue addicts. We're glad, therefore, to dash to the relief of the grippers by passing on the recipe of a Canadian guide as published in the Monroe County Democrat, Sparta, Wisconsin, by Truthful James: "Build a fire with



IRWIN CAPLAN

pitch pine knots. Put one quart of water and two handfuls of coffee in the pot. Place on fire. Sit on the lid so that it doesn't boil over. When lid gets too hot for seat of pants, the coffee's ready for serving." Delicious, says Mr. James. (Think of getting all this and Collier's too for only fifteen cents.)

Just as this Richmond, Virginia, mother was about to call up Junior's camp and ask why she hadn't heard from him, his letter arrived. "Dear Mom. They are making us write home today. Love. Junior."

In the United States Bureau of Standards at Boulder, Colorado, there's a special clock that ticks 60 billion (repeat billion) times a second. This not only makes it rather difficult to detect the pauses between ticks but, according to Mr. O. Lapp, Denver private eye, it is almost as fast as the changes in our foreign policy.

Our patience is rewarded. For months we've been hoping for news from West Point, Virginia. And now we find a tourist stopping at a filling station in West Point and asking the man where the military academy was. The man told him there wasn't any military academy in West Point. "Come, come," said the tourist. "I know the government is trying to keep such things secret. But you can trust me."

He says his name is Henry Bean, that he is forty years old, sound of wind and limb and until recently feeling pretty chipper. But that was before he was driving his car near Memphis, Tennessee. There he got into a right-of-way argument with a couple of teenagers in another car. The teen-agers, about eighteen and brawny, got out and advanced upon him menacingly.

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Mr. Bean doesn't know what might have happened had not a girl in the other car shouted: "Don't you boys dare hit that poor old man."

We've tossed aside that 25-year calendar we got from Mr. Eby Stallcup some time ago. Mr. B. J. McGuire, Winona, Minnesota, realtor, has just sent us one warranted to keep us up to date for 200 years. This makes it possible for us to do a little planning.

Disturbing political news from New Mexico. It says here in an unidentified newspaper clip, contributed by Mr. Noah Vanderslice, that "prospects are better for getting the names of dead persons off the vote registration rolls." More creeping socialism, thinks Mr. Vanderslice. To say nothing of disrespect for the departed.

We've been talking to a Rochester, New York, gentleman who manufactures men's clothes. He looked a bit frazzled. A problem had been gnawing at him. Just where in a man's suit is he going to put the extra compartment for the pocket-size radios being made by several companies? The pocket-radio-pocket idea, he says, came from Dr. Carl W. McIntosh, president of Idaho State College. What he's going to do when they whittle down TV sets, he refused to discuss.

Just as we all thought that the situation in Indiana was well in hand, the Hoosiers developed state Supreme Court trouble. The turnover in Indiana justices is compared unfavorably with the French premiership. Increasingly expensive, too. To fix up a new judge with robes, brass name plates for his door and so on sets the state back \$250. Then there's that matter of 60 bucks to have his portrait painted. Worse,



they're running out of wall space to hang the portraits on. And if you don't hang the new judge's portrait in a prominent place, his constituents get sore. If you take down a portrait of a departed lawgiver, his friends howl. It's pretty hard to run a state like Indiana.



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LETTERS

From Plebe to President

EDITOR: I wish to correct an error in the quotation of General Eisenhower's remarks attributed to me in the article From Plebe to President (June 10th) . . . During your reporter's call on me . . . I expressed my personal opinion that General Eisenhower had been reluctant to postpone a well-earned retirement, and had only agreed to run for the Presidency after he was convinced that the people demanded it of him. As evidence of this I gave the gist of a conversation I had with General Eisenhower during our 35th Class Reunion, in June, 1950. I had no idea that my remarks would be printed as a direct quote of a conversation which took place nearly five years ago.

While the quotation, as printed, is essentially what I recall General Eisenhower to have said, I wish to state positively that he did not use the expression "S.O.B.s" . . . If such a term was used during my conversation with your reporter, it expressed only my own personal feelings on the matter. I have never heard General Eisenhower use this expression or any other form of intemperate language. I sincerely regret that any remarks of mine should have resulted in injecting a sour note into what was otherwise a wholesome article. I hope that this letter may serve as a public apology to President Eisenhower for any embarrassment I may have caused him . . .

COLONEL A. H. WARREN,
Walla Walla, Wash.

Complications

EDITOR: I found the picture story on Grace Kelly (June 24th) to be most pleasant. Miss Kelly's simple beauty has the effect of arousing the most



complicated yet clear responses of calm but active enthusiasm . . . Sonnets should be written.

DOUGLAS A. HUGHES,
Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Double Fault

EDITOR: Joseph Laitin's article Mother of Earthquakes (June 10th) and William Garnett's color photographs form a superlative presentation of the San Andreas Fault . . .

I am curious about one seeming contradiction. Twice we are told that the land mass moves northward on the ocean side of the fault and southward on the continental side. Yet the "border incident" cited on page 85 indicates the exact opposite. Was this truly an isolated caprice of San Andreas—or was it a nongeological slip?

JAMES G. CHESNUTT, Alexandria, Va.

A typographical slip. Author Laitin says: "I transposed 'western' and 'eastern' in copying my final manuscript. The statement should have read: 'In the 1940 earthquake, the American land mass on the eastern (continental) side of the fault moved four feet 10 inches south of the border, while the land mass in Mexico on the western (ocean) side moved four feet six inches into the United States (north) . . .'

Highways

EDITOR: Your comment Life Lines and Deathtraps (June 24th) . . . couldn't have come at a better time. After years of neglect during the depression, and more years of apathy during World War II, when our highways were considered expendable, we have finally been presented with the opportunity of a lifetime to do something about getting America out of its nation-wide traffic jam . . .

The "Section 13 Report" made to the current session of Congress for the first time in our history draws a blueprint of all our highway, road and street needs throughout the nation . . . It substantiates the opinion long held by our traffic experts that the National System of Interstate Highways is the keystone to adequate arteries of transportation throughout America . . . This system is an absolute "must" to the continued growth of our economy, to our military and civilian defense, and to decreasing our appalling accident rate. . . .

ARTHUR O. DIETZ,
Chairman, Highways for Survival
Committee, New York, N.Y.

Den Mothers

EDITOR: I have been at the boiling point since reading the Short Short Story called The Cub Scout Who Didn't, by Gertrude Carrick (June 10th) . . .

Den mothers do not shout at boys. They raise their right hand with two fingers up in the Cub Scout sign. They expect and get the attention of every boy in the room without uttering a word. We recently took 40 boys on a tour through a plant where electricity was made . . . not one mishap . . .

HAZEL E. ADAMS, Greenfield, Mass.

. . . I am an assistant den mother . . . we have discovered that if our cubs are kept busy every minute during our meetings they simply do not have time to become boisterous and unruly. We play a vigorous game or just run the youngsters around the house several times as fast as they can go before the meeting . . . MRS. DEBORAH C. BROWN,
Beatrice, Neb.

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