

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley



It's Been A Tough Week

We've been a pretty lucky crew around our place this year. All winter, friends, neighbors and relatives have been coming down with everything from the ordinary stuff — pregnancy and insanity — to exotic items like oriental hepatitis and whooping mumps. We haven't had so much as a sniffle.

It was too good to last, and we got the whole bundle this week. Nothing serious, physically, but mentally and emotionally, a shattering period.

First it was the dentist. Kim's was her regular six-month check-up. It's a breeze. She waltzes in blithely, has her gums frozen, and the dentist pumps a little concrete into a pin-hole you couldn't see with a telescope.

It's a little different for father. I also go regularly to the dentist. Every three or four years. When I have a broken tooth or two, and have wild, stabbing pains from several of the other old stumps, and have postponed my appointment about six times, I go down for my regular check-up.

Sweating, trembling, and condemning all dentists and their inane questions to the murkiest depths, I sit there trying to tear the arms off the chair. Too gutless about needles to have the freezing, I go through the agonies of Prometheus as the poor man prods about among the snaggles of porcelain, looking for a piece of genuine, human tooth he can drill.

And then there's always that excruciating moment when he steps back, with some kind of chisel cocked in his hand, shakes his head more in pity than in sympathy, and says, "Hmmm."

Visions of the blood, the pain, the ignominy swirl through my head.

Well, that's the way the week began. Worse was to come. I've been suffering from a bad shoulder for years. I know. Everybody has one. Or a bad back or a bad hip. One week, the doctor says it's an inflammation. On the next visit, he says it's an old injury aggravated by tension. Next trip, it's bursitis. Next, after X-rays, it's a calcium deposit. If I had half the calcium in my teeth that I have in my

shoulder, I could be one of those grinning-ape models in the toothpaste ads.

Anyway, I finally decided to do something about it. Or my wife did. She didn't mind my groaning in my sleep. It was the cursing, every time I rolled onto that side, that upset her. She was worried about my soul.

I wasn't. But when it got to the point where I couldn't pour a bottle of beer any more, without weeping, I realized that man cannot exist on pain pills alone.

I've mentioned what a yellow streak I have about needles. The doc said, as he took out this elephant-syringe, loaded with cortisone, "You'll feel a slight pinprick as the needle enters." The cold sweat stopped flowing. Nothing to it.

Then he started to lean on the needle. Have you ever had a pinprick with a crow-bar?

The only comparable experience I've had was one time in a veterans' hospital. I was wheeled into this room for "tests." Flat on my back. Two nurses held a hand each, one on each side of the the bed. Decent of them, I thought. Comforters. As I was smiling at them, in turn the doc rammed this huge hypodermic in my chest and shoved down. Then he started to suck (marrow out of my breastbone, as it turned out). In the next three seconds, those nurses wound up on opposite sides of the bed, without touching the floor. I was told later that I had been a volunteer for a research project.

Well, I won't bore you with a lot more sick detail. Suffice it to say that my wife and daughter went to the eye doctor. Kim, who wants glasses like she wants a hair lip, got them. My wife was sore as hell because she paid 10 dollars for the examination, and didn't get any glasses.

Just to cheer us up, we phoned Hugh on Sunday. We knew he was starting to write his final university exams on the Monday. Wanted to wish him luck. A croaking wreck who sounded more like Edgar Allen Poe's raven than our jolly boy, informed us that he'd been sick as a dog with the 'flu for three weeks.

ALCOHOLICS STUDY SEMINAR) (by Buck)

A seminar will be held in Terrace Bay at the Recreation Centre on Thursday, May 12th at 7.30 p.m. in the large meeting room. Mr. Cliff Bennett, Community Consultant for Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation, will be the panel moderator, accompanied by three other members. The theme for the seminar is AN ALCOHOLIC IN A COMMUNITY and the purpose is to see the alcoholic in relationship with other individual and community agencies. This seminar should be of great interest as it will include discussion periods and several viewpoints from panel members.

LADY BOWLERS PERFORM WELL AT LAKEHEAD

Seven ladies, members of the Terrace Bay Bowling Association, travelled to the Lakehead on Sunday to participate in the Dominion Motors Ladies Bowling Tournament. Those concerned were Mesdames Edmunds, Coupal, Fraser, Milks and Hall of Terrace Bay and Mesdames Moon and Smilsky of Schreiber.

The five-pin tournament took place at the Playtime Lanes in Port Arthur with thirty-seven bowlers from as far away as Marathon. Eight games were played beginning at 11 a.m. and continuing until after 5 p.m.

Going into the eighth game Marie Edmunds was out in front but first and second places went to Lakehead bowlers with 2060 and 2059 totals. Marie took third place with 2031 over eight games. Myra Smilsky was eighth and Dot Coupal 14th.

Three high single prizes went to the Terrace Bay bowlers. Marie Edmunds with 294 - Dot Coupal with 250 and Althea Fraser with 244.

TWO UNION OFFICIAL DIE SUDDENLY

Members of Local #665 will be saddened to know of the recent death of two well known Union officials, President Emeritus John P. Burke who passed away in Florida on April 22nd. The funeral was held in Fort Edward, New York on April 29th.

Frank C. Barnes, who served on the International Union for more than twenty-six years, died in Mesa, Arizona and was buried there on April 26th.

CERTIFICATES TO BE PRESENTED MAY 10TH

The presentation of certificates to the students who entered the contest sponsored by the Oddfellow and Rebekah Lodges will take place on May 10th in Schreiber Town Hall at 9:00 P.M. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The winner of this contest, David Shivas, will travel to New York this summer to visit the United Nations.

BASEBALL (Continued from page 10)

coaching and officials are concerned, we will not have a fastball or baseball league this year.

This is an appeal to parents to show the same interest in having a baseball season as do their children.

NOTICE - Miss Margaret Pineault of Tony's Beauty Shop will be on holiday from Saturday May 7th until May 20th. The Beauty Shop will be closed except for Thursdays when Tony will accept appointments in Terrace Bay.