

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley



My wife keeps asking me why my hands shake. It would not be polite to respond, "Baby, living with you would make anyone's hands shake."

So I blame it on the war. Some fellows have burned faces, aluminum legs, sleeves pinned up, glass eye. Some have great shrapnel wounds on abdomen or buttocks, which they will happily show you at the Saturday night party. My hands shake.

But the real reason is that living with her would make anybody's hands shake.

What bring this to mind is that I've just gone through about 48 hours of domestic purgatory. Cowardly husbands go quietly off to mental institutions, or have heart attacks. My hands shake.

The occasion was the reception of our son's marks at the end of first year university and about \$1,700. Plus tax.

When the paper arrived with the first-year results, I threw it on the table, ran to the bathroom, locked myself in, and started flushing the toilet at twelve-second intervals.

As I suspected, it was futile. The alternative sobs of grief and shrieks of rage penetrated my refuge. I had to come out and be a father.

I know you won't believe it, but that kid's name was not at the head of the first-class honors list. Nor the second-class honors list. Nor the third. (He had told me, just before leaving for the west coast job, to start looking for his name from the bottom of the page up.) At least it was there.

I tried to console the Old Lady with stuff like, "Rome wasn't built in a day, you know," and "You can't grow roses without thorns, you know," and "What the hell, we'll all be dead in fifty years, you know", and similar bits of homespun comfort. It was as useless as trying to hum Flow Gently, Sweet Afton with a Beatles, record going full bore.

Kim was a big help, though.

She sat there tossing, "What a lazy bum! Why weren't you tougher with him? How could he be so stupid?", and other bits of oil on the fire.

Frankly, I was relieved that he'd passed. My wife was infuriated alternatively with the Lord, who hadn't caused a miracle to pass, his professors, who had barely allowed the kid to pass, and the kid, who had allowed a year to pass as though he'd been on another planet.

But she couldn't just keep on sobbing and uttering maledictions. We had arranged to go on a picnic with another family and their four little kids.

So we went. And the results proved to me once again that stupid old platitude that "life goes on." It was a wonderful combination: sun and sand; their baby eating algae and ants; their little boys burning themselves as they roasted marshmallows; and a most peculiarly potent potion of Gordon's lemonade I'd mixed.

Under this prescription, my old girl was so relaxed that she burst into tears of shame and rage only four times during the picnic.

Next day she was definitely on the mend. She cried until noon, brooded on her bed until four p.m., but got up and put the chicken legs in the oven for some people we'd invited for dinner.

By great good luck, their kid had failed his year outright and dismally. That cheered things up a bit.

Later in the evening, an old friend, a professor of English, dropped in with his wife. They were on holidays. Their daughter, an extremely brilliant student in high school, had also just completed first-year university. They hadn't yet seen her results.

We had the extreme pleasure of telling them that she, like Hugh, had barely staggered through. They left, looking sick. We went to bed, the boss almost buoyant.

KINDERGARTEN LIST (Continued from page 9)

Kathryn Osmar, Ann Rowsome - Ann Louise Stephen Robert Weaver - Caron Lynn Weberg.

SCHOOL TIME CHANGES

Beginning September 6th, afternoon classes at Terrace Bay Public School will commence at 1.15. Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 will dismiss at 3.15 while all other grades will dismiss at 3.45.

TERRACE BAY HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURE

All students assemble in the Auditorium at 10.00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 6, 1966.

Textbooks will be loaned to all students but notebooks, pens, pencils, etc., must be purchased and should be brought to the school Tuesday morning.

Students who plan to attend the Terrace Bay High School this year but did not attend either the High School or one of the Terrace Bay Elementary Schools last year, should come to the school office before September 6th for advance registration.

Students attending publically supported Secondary Schools in other centres must fill out a Tuition Allowance Form. These are available at the High School.

W.W.Rowsome,
Principal.

LOST - Grey case with house and post office keys. Phone 3600.

HELP WANTED, female - room maid required for part time employment in the Terrace Bay Motor Hotel. Experience not necessary. Direct applications to Employment Supervisor - Kimberly-Clark Pulp and Paper Company Ltd., Terrace Bay.
FOR SALE - Lincoln Oil Furnace - 100,000 B.T.U. complete with controls - most duct work - in excellent condition. Phone Schreiber 154.

NOTICE RE WATER SUPPLY

During the coming Mill Shutdown, the Lake Superior Pumphouse will be shut down as follows:- 9.00 a.m., September 6th until 2.00 p.m., September 9th. -

During this period the town will be supplied from the Hayes Lake Emergency Pumphouse.

There will be no interruptions to the town water supply.