SPORTS & by A SIXBIT CRITIC

Something new is liable to be added to the already lengthy list of sports alibis. These, of course, include such gems as the horse that would have been a cinch if the track hadn't turned sloppy; the baseball outfielder would have caught the fly ball in his athletic supporter if the sun hadn't dazzled him; the golfer who would have holed out in one putt, instead of five, if it hadn't been for a worm cast; the football team that would have won handily except for the horrible condition of field; and dozens more you can probably readily call to mind.

* * *

But this new one—and we can hardly wait to see which club uses it first—relates to hockey. As you no doubt know, the "greatest city on earth" is threatened with a water shortage, in fact is hardly better off in that regard than some places the New Yorkers would scornfully refer to as "hick towns".

* * *

So now, according to dispatches, the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League are hoping to save some 150,000 gallons of the city's drinking water by thawing the rink after each game, and storing the fluid for re-use throughout the season.

* * *

So, as we started to say earlier, we can hardly wait to see which of the other teams, after dropping a tough game in the metropolis, outs with the alibi "we would of won easy if that stale ice the Rangers use hadn't of slowed us down to a walk."

* * *

From a sports writer's standpoint it seems rather a pity that the Gotham water emergency didn't occur a year or so earlier. Then we could all have pointed out that the Rangers could save even more of the aqua-more-or-less-pura by not using any at all, because they could probably play just as good hockey without ice. But seeing that, as of this writing, the New Yorkers aren't doing so badly—or perhaps it's that four of the other five aren't going so hot—a golden opportunity for tryptwitter floggers is lost.

* * *

"The Kiss of Death" in Sports—as you are probably aware and as we have no doubt explained before—comes when one of the huge-circulation magazines publishes a feature article regarding some athlete or team, immediately prior to such team or athlete indulging in some "crooshul" struggle.

* * *

It is rather remarkable, at that, how often such an article will seem to act as a hex, or in proper Oxonian English, put a whammy on the subject. (You have only to recall The Saturday Evening Post's piece about wind jersey Joe Walcott was going to do to Joe Louis just before their second fight; or, for that matter, a dozen others we might mention.)

* * *

In Colliers a week or so ago Dan Parker pointed out consistently affusing of all the Continent's sports cobblers for our money, did a swell article entitled "They Whistle While They Work", in which he dealt with the amazing antics of the top (professional) basketball referees.

* * *

And quite a show those babies put on, and no mistake. In fact to our mind their grand-standing antics, coupled with their incessant whistle-tooting, had no little to do with sickening the Toronto public with pro basketball in the late and unlamented attempt to popularize it there.

* * *

Anyway, hardly had the issue containing Parker's screed hit the newsstands when the old "Kiss of Death" went into action. Maurice Podoloff, supreme commissioner of the National Basketball Association, issued an edict. And this edict, although it saves the aforesaid referees from the ever-present danger of apoplexy and busted arteries, is going to cramp them to about the same extent as—well, as Gene Autry or Roy Rogers would be handicapped if they were forced to act without the [illegible] horses.

* * *

"No longer," [illegible] observer puts it, "will a Pat Kennedy be free to wax eloquent, to turn a magnificent purple as he shrills 'Hacking! One shot.' No longer will diminutive Phil Fox mince accusingly up to a beneakered criminal and thrusting a roguish finger beneath his nose, call a halt to allow the one sinned against to take his rightful place at the free throw line. No longer will Eddie Boyle bring down the fury of the populace as, by prolonged pantomime, he achieves what a less gifted individual might do with a simple blow of the whistle."

* * *

The lads can still call fouls to their hearts' content. But—according to the fiat of Commissioner Polodoff, "motions of the body, which have been used increasingly and which in some cases belong more properly to the stage, are to be abandoned immediately. The only speaking to be done by an official when a foul is committed is calling out the number of the player involved."

* * *

Some will try and claim that such a move was long overdue, and coming anyway. But most will lay the blame on Dan Parker, and his "Kiss of Death". And, Oh, Daniel! how could you? How dare you so fetter the genius of some of the hammiest actors we have seen since the ten-twenty-thirty melodrama went to its long rest? It was cruel, of you, almost fiendish. Personally—well, we feel as though we could almost bear to sit through another professional basketball game again—something we thought could never happen since we disgustedly walked out on the last one after the first ten minutes.

"Mugs' His Customers—Taking a tip from the old-fashioned barber shop with its shelf of personal shaving mugs, restaurant operator Norman Massing keeps a supply of "personalized coffee cups" for his regular customers. Each cup bears the name or nickname of one of the regulars. Massing is seen serving a personal cup to office worker Rose Marie Nutini.

When Will "Mule Train" Finally Balk

Just about the time that radio station disk jockeys became fed up with a new popular song the public catches up with it. So it is with "Mule Train," that rousing western song that Tim Pan Alley has loosed upon the world.

Having reached the limit of endurance, a San Francisco radio-caster recently played every recording of "Mule Train" he had or could borrow. The presentation lasted half an hour, with a repetition or two from the versions made by Bing Crosby, Frankie Lane, Tennessee Ernie, and others. Result—listeners who had not heard it often enough were delighted.

Doubtless the disk jockey by the Golden Gate is still receiving requests for the recordings. If he in turn goes to for husband's holidays, he can hear the song done to a thrilling turn on the rise-and-shine program of a Fresno station by a Mexican singing in Spanish. Not till the public becomes sated with "Mule Train" go off the air.

Remember "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles" and "Yes, We Have No Bananas"? They seemed indestructible. Perhaps there is some compensation for today's more intense bombardment. The punishment is shorter, for the point where a majority are fed up comes quicker.

GARAGE GAB

In many small garages, the servicemen identify cars by the names of their owners. When repairs are needed or special services required, this practice leads to some interesting notes in the daybook of orders. For instances:

Mrs. Ellis won't start.

Give Miss Jackson some alcohol. Two quarts ought to hold her.

Something wrong with old man Pitt's wiring.

Mrs. Wyndham's fenders bumped. Not responsible.

Wash Miss Jenkins.

Encore

A piper had played a selection on his bagpipes at a gathering, not all Scotsmen. He was rewarded with good applause. The chairman suggested an encore. A member in the audience called, "How about 'Annie Laurie'?"

The piper looked surprised and pleased, and said, "Again?"

ONLY TWO—BUT HOMELESS—Milk from Canada reaches this tiny Greek child through the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The United Nations has appealed to Canada and a score of other countries to help the sick and hungry children now living in former theatres of war. The postal address "UNICEF, OTTAWA" is accepting funds from Canadians to help buy Canadian food for six million hungry children.

Other Papers Pull Boners Too

All in Fun

Honesty may be the best policy in the long run, but many people—Read the Sentinel Classified.—**Ilion Sentinel.**

Racey Corsage

Mrs. B. R. presented the officer with a huge bouquet of ponies for the occasion.—**Caldwell Tribune.**

Who Doesn't?

"Please excuse my absence from class on Thursday and Friday. I had science trouble in my head."—**Mebane Times.**

Bargain?

Real Savings on Women's Wear: Special Pastel Slip, Lice Trimmed, only $3.59.—**Baraboo News-Republic.**

INSULT

The club secretary hurried over when he saw a visiting golfer addressing the ball a few feet in front of the tree.

"I'm sorry, sir," he interrupted, "but in this club we play either from the tee or behind it. Never," he emphasized with a shudder, "in front of it."

The golfer's only move was to readdress his ball.

"I must insist," urged the secretary.

The golfer straightened up and looked hard at his interrupter. "I happen," he said with dignity, "to be playing my second shot."

..Classified Advertising..

AGENTS WANTED

PROGRESSIVE BETTER—Give you Quality you need for consistent profits. High Quality Products sell first. The importance of High Quality grows as competition increases. Hundreds of egg producers, poultry growers, farmers over, have found Top Notch Quality what they look for. Our 1949 chicks are the best yet. Send for price list and catalogue. Also Turkeys and laying pullets, brooder chicks. Top Notch Chick Sales, Guelph, Ontario.

PROFITABLE sideline business with most complete line of household necessities from the most fragrant cosmetics to the most helpful floor cleaners or polishes. There is an exclusive territory open in your city or in your rural area, and you are sure to succeed with our fast-selling lines. Write today for free details. FAMILEX, 1466 Delorimier, Montreal.

DEALERS wanted to take orders for chicks for one of Canada's oldest established Government Approved Hatcheries—Buckwich, Watkins and Nursery salesmen, feed men, implement dealers and farmers make excellent dealers. Apply Box 12, 123 Eglinton Street, New Toronto.

TO SELL: Baby Chicks in this district on a good commission basis. These chicks are guaranteed from good high-producing blood-tested stock. Poole Hatchery, Forester Bronson, Ontario. Phone S7 R 23 Milverton.

BABY CHICKS

SOUND BREEDING. The basic factor in Poultry profits. Sound breeding plus good management makes up the complete formula for Poultry Profit. Without good breeding the best of management will fail to produce profitable results. Many of our chicks this year will be R.O.P. Sired. Send for early booking priority. Also Turkeys, Broiler Chicks, Laying and Ready-to-lay pullets. Breeding cockerels. Free Catalogue. Tweddle Chick Hatcheries Limited, Fergus, Ontario.

LAYING and ready to lay pullets for immediate delivery. Pure breeds, and crossbreeds, also breeding cockerels. Tweddle Chick Hatcheries Limited, Fergus, Ontario.

BABY CHICK SUCCESS By ordering your 1949 baby chicks now you guarantee yourself delivery date and also obtain an early order discount. All breeders are government tested and approved. Write today for our 1952 catalogue and price list. Monkton Poultry Farms, Monkton, Ontario.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AN OFFER to every inventor—Get all details and full information sent free. The Ramsay Co. Registered Patent Attorneys, 273 Bank Street, Ottawa.

DYEING AND CLEANING

HAVE YOU anything needs dyeing or cleaning? Write to us for information. We are glad to answer your questions. Department H, Parker's Dye Works Limited, 791 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario.

EXCHANGE for business—100 acre fully equipped Dairy Farm. Modern buildings 4 miles west of Delhi. No. 1 Highway. $16,000. Williams Kowalchuk, R.R. 2, Delhi, Ontario.

FOR SALE

REGISTERED Jersey Bull, "Edgelea Lucky Jester" 114971. First Champion Western Ontario, born 1946. Head herd before, owner discontinuing. M. Bourie, Osgoode, Ont.

DID YOU KNOW that Hillhead Farms, York, Ontario, have several remarkably priced dual Purpose Shorthorns, males and females, from outstanding dairy and beef sire groups at reasonable prices.

200 ACRES. Good black loam, 150 acres tilled, 2 Two story houses, bath in one, Two good barns, water cible in one. Other buildings. Hydro telephone. On Pure Road. Maidstone Township, Tribes Canadian Pacific Station R.R. No. 3, Essex. Phone Pleasant Park 7 R 4.

FIRE HOSE WAGONS—Used, made of 1-ply woven linen, 2 inch diameter, 40" dia., with 2½ female brass. Suitable for many uses for farm iron rim, can be adapted to motor truck. $25 each. Also large stocks of new lines fire hose, extinguishers, Dept. W., Salvage Disposal Corp. Ltd., 311 Yonville Square, Montreal, Que. Est. 1927.

OAK DESK LETTER TRAYS—Used, 10"x15" for desks and office use. $1.25 each. Dept. W., Salvage Disposal Corp. Ltd., 311 Yonville Square, Montreal, Que. Est. 1927.

MILL ENDS—Rayon Crepe—long lengths—newest shades—navy, grey, wine, brown, green and smoke crystal. $1.39 per yard. Cheque or money order must accompany order. Sample Swatches on request. Salvage Disposal Corp. Ltd., Dept. W., 311 Yonville Square, Montreal, Que. Est. 1927.

LADIES FELT Articles are all the rage. 21 colors in felt, forty different patterns. Free price list. Handcrafts Service, 159 Emerson Street, Hamilton, Ontario.

SOLID heavy tinned mine pail, filled 40 lbs. golden light amber honey (no buckwheat), $5.75 each, 2 pails $11. Ontario Honey Producers Co-operative, 5 Derlica Street, Toronto.

PURE bred Emden, Buff, Massive Toulouse, geese and ganders; Rouen, Cayuga ducks; black rose comb, dark Cornish bantams. E. E. Pickell, R.R. 4, St. Mary's, Ontario.

PHEASANTS: Nice range-raised Ring-necks—pairs $8.00; Amherst Hens, $9.00. Golden Cocks, $8.00; Pure Mallard ducks: trios $8.00. Fred Bowen, Kingsmill, Ont.

PEKINGESE: Beautiful Wangza puppies. Registered champions sired. Sacrifice $25.00 each. Overstreet, Mrs. Donithon, Boucherville, Quebec.

FOR SALE

HOMESPUN YARN—made of long Virgin wool —medium—fine—heavy weight. Socks—mittens sweaters and other woollen garments. 2-2-4-ply, white, grey, royal blue, navy green, scarlet, maroon, yellow, brown, heather, black, fawn, white and grey mixed. $1.25 lb., 10 lbs. or over, $1.20 lb. delivered. Northland Greyster sweaters 25c each. Adults' deer, bear, Indian design, curling. Children: deer, bear, dog and squirrel, dancer, Indian design. Knitting needles 25c pair. Mary Maxim, Box 120 Sifton, Manitoba.

TEN Chapters Behind the Divine Curtain. Greatest revelation of modern times. Limited supply, first only $2.00. Postpaid. Mahatma Hender, 329 N. Ashland, Chicago 12, Ill.

RIFLES AT WHOLESALE PRICES

303 British Lee Enfield converted sporting models; high-power precision repeaters; walnut stock; lightweight; 10-shot. Excellent condition—fully guaranteed or money refunded. $37.50 each. Will ship C.O.D. Write today Sportsmen's Wholesale Supply, 2094 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal 25, Que.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES, registered, ready for Christmas, 2 month's old. KEITH LAYER, Cookerville, Ontario.

COMPLETE line of sporting goods. Inquiries invited. Quebec Distributors & Dealers, Box 2284, Place d'Armes, Montreal.

1947 Commercial Jeep, thirteen thousand miles. Half top, heater, would trade on Ford tractor. 200 gallon Sprayator sprayer, trailer type power take-off, 450 lb pressure, four-row boom, high crop clearance. LeRoy Coleman, Blenheim, Ont.

MEDICAL

TRY IT! Every Sufferer of Rheumatic Pains or Neuritis should try Dixon's Remedy.

MUNRO'S DRUG STORE Ottawa
335 Elgin $1.25 Express Prepaid

SUFFERERS from Rheumatic or Arthritic pains: If you cannot get relief, write us 329 Tuxedo, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

POST'S ECZEMA SALVE

Banish the torment of dry eczema eczema and weeping skin troubles. Relief or relief will not disappoint you. Itching, scaling, eczema, acne ringworm, eczema and athlete's foot, will respond readily to this stainless, odorless, non-greasy ointment, regardless of how hopeless they seem.

PRICE $1.00 PER JAR
Sent Post Free on Receipt at Price
POST'S REMEDIES
889 Queen St E. Corner of Lucan

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

BE A HAIRDRESSER
JOIN CANADA'S LEADING SCHOOL
Great Opportunity Learn Hairdressing
Pleasant dignified profession, good wages thousands successful Marvel graduates
America's greatest system illustrated catalogue free Write or Call
MARVEL HAIRDRESSING SCHOOLS
256 Bloor St W., Toronto
Branches: 48 King St Hamilton
& 75 Bank St., Ottawa

WHY not employ spare time profitably profitably making socks, rugs, etc.—for household and trade. Ask for free coloured booklet with special offer on Verdun Home Knitting Machine. Used home for rugs, knitting worsted wool mill ends for knitters, etc. Prize winner, Tritex Canadian Co., Box 167, Place d'Armes, Montreal.

PATENTS

FETHERSTONHAUGH & Company Patent Solicitors Established 1890 256 Bay Street Toronto Booklet or information on request

PERSONAL

WHY grow gray hair? Write for my Free Folder: Box 829, Transcona, Manitoba.

A BOOK of 746 Classified Household Hints, of great value to every one in the family. $1.00 Postpaid. Williams Publications, Box 167-WL, Toronto 1, Ont.

SALESMAN WANTED

CAN YOU DO THIS?
THE reason we have successful salesmen averaging
$100 AND MORE
A week in commissions and bonuses is because:
1—We teach you how. Experience is unnecessary.
2—Our national and international advertising in newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts helps you.
3—Rapid advancement to the right person.
If you are over 23 years of age write Box No. 50, 123-18th Street, New Toronto. Include your name, address and phone number.

WANTED!

URGENTLY WANTED, Present address of Professor Morgan, Parmiss Crystal Gazer. Write Box 45, Bagbehart, Ontario.

WHITE Holland Turkey Body feathers wanted. Particulars on illustrated folder. K. P. Hollander, 797 Read Building, Montreal, Quebec.

The truest thing ever said about gardens is that a thing of beauty is a job forever.

Atoms Battle Disease—Dr. Max Bindig of Munich, Germany, and his assistant, Hildegund Handke, demonstrate treatment of the lungs by the "atomic ball," making use of atomic radiation in the battle against diseases. Dr. Bindig's "Vibrato-Atomator" is reported a big step forward in atomic medicine.

...sk Turk Broda For Some, Ella

French Suits? She Will Wear 'Em

Actress Ella Raines owns half a dozen French bathing suits, and says she'll wear them in Hollywood as soon as she gains five pounds. Miss Raines wore the abbreviated suits in Europe, Africa and even in England. She predicts Hollywood will get used to them

They've Cracked 10,000 Safes

Safes are getting safer and tougher, but they still hide no secrets from the world's finest safecrackers, 58-years-old Dave Worrall and his inventive son, Ronald.

In a backstreet workshop in the City of London, the Worrall family boast that they know more about the making and breaking of locks than anyone else in the world. Neither criminals nor police can equal their astonishing skill and ingenuity. Honest cracksmen, who exercise their extraordinary talents for legitimate purposes only, they recently celebrated the opening of their 10,000th safe—strictly in the course of business, writes Roger Bunyan in "Tit-Bits."

For test purposes they have even cracked open the Jewel Room in the Tower of London, home of the Crown Jewels.

"Could you break open the, locks in the Bank of England?" I asked these key men recently.

"I think so," Dave beamed. "I fitted them!"

War Office Booby Traps

Inheriting over centuries of family skill as locksmiths, the Worralls have also installed—and sometimes cracked—safes in Buckingham Palace and the Royal Mint. During the war they supplie the War Office with a list of possible booby-traps in connection with safe-opening and trained Commandos in safe-breaking. After a thief has unsuccessfully worked all night, they have been known to open the damaged safe door a safe in five minutes with nothing more than a spindle of hard bent wire.

One of Dave's more difficult jobs was when he had to pry open the toughest safe-door in the world, a mass of multiple-layered metal which alone weighs 30 tons. "We operate on some safes by ripping off the back like the cracksmen in fiction," Dave told me. "We use a blow-pipe, oxy-acetylene flame or electric drills. Oxy-acetylene cuts through steel like butter. But this 30-tonner, made of tough steel alloys, could resist a 4.7 gun at 50 yards."

All in the Day's Work

Using every process known to science, the Worralls worked 120 hours on the prototype safe at the maker's request, testing its safety in the only practical way. Subsequently, the makers guaranteed it to resist attack for this time. No safe is every completely impregnable. It is immune only for a limited period.

Many average safes resist the Worralls for less than an hour. Opening vaults that have jammed accidentally, or safes for owners who have lost the keys or forgotten the combinations, are all in the day's work. In their workroom recently stood a safe coated with dried slime and adhering seaweed. It had been retrieved from the strongroom of a sunken ship. Father and son have treated safes crushed in earthquakes, or seared by explosives.

During the bombing days, Dave often found safes too hot to handle. They lay glowing in caverns of steaming bomb wreckage and they had to be given time to cool down. If the contents had been suddenly exposed to normal temperatures, they might have been ruined.

Working against a time-switch can sometimes prove a matter of life or death. Not long ago a night employee was locked in a fur storage vault. Using an emergency telephone fitted within the vault he had telephoned for help. When his rescuers reached the scene, 'phone calls to the vault were unanswered.

Set like an alarm clock, the time lock drops a tripper that springs back only at the predetermined time. The combinations cannot be worked while the tripper is in position. Fortunately the trapped man had read the emergency instructions and sprung the tripper before slumping unconscious. All the key men had to do was find the combination.

"If you ever happen to be trapped in cold storage," warns Worrall, "lift the tripper—or it may take us 12 hours to get you out instead of 20 minutes."

During his career Dave has seen safes improved to the pitch of being crime-proof, yet his locksmith's skill has kept pace with progress. In his apprenticeship days burglars were still desperately attacking old-fashioned safes by cutting the locks away, or blowing them off with gelignite. The strongroom experts designed a combination-controlled shutter and then went a step farther and developed the keyless combination lock.

No safebreaker in criminal history has ever successfully manipulated a combination lock with fingers, sandpapered to super-sensitivity, instently listening to the click of the tumblers. This scene annoys a Worrall workman whenever he encounters it in a thriller. The super locksmiths really find the first and last symbols of a combination, but working out the center ciphers is a mathematical feat requiring infinite patience.

"Magnified Can-Openers"

Combination safes, however, fall readily enough if a cristodian is forced to reveal the secret at revolver point. Some cracksmen have bludgeoned safes into surrender by ripping off the back with magnified can-openers or pouring nitroglycerine into the door joint and blowing the door off. So the technicians next evolved a watertight, airtight safe with no hairline gap between the jamb and the door. Today, fitted in its frame by the mechanism known as the crane hinge, the door of an average big bank model may be controlled by as many as four time-locks. In addition, since the advent of photo-electric cells and infra-red rays, hidden wires linked with police headquarters give warning of intruders.

Similarly, there are trick locks designed for ordinary bureau use which raise an alarm if the key is turned to the right instead of to the left opening a jammed or damaged safe, a craftsman rarely resorts to explosives. Using a fine drill, Dave Worrall makes an incision little larger than a pinhole and drives the drill straight to the pivotal levers forming the heart of a lock.

When the owner of a safe dies without revealing a combination, the master mechanic prefers to pit his skill against the safe without using force. As Dave explains, "When you call a cabinet-maker in for your furniture, you don't want it broken up!"

A Load of Diamonds

On one occasion a safe full of diamonds was travelling from Kimberley to Cape Town when it fell in unloading and was buckled. Master mechanics in South Africa attempted to open it in vain. The jammed safe had to travel all the way to Britain, where Customs officials refused to allow it to pass unopened. Eventually representatives of the Customs, the diamond owners and the shipping company had to assemble in the Worralls' workshop to see the safe opened. It took 25 minutes.

Perhaps the best tribute to today's safe-makers is the fact that, despite greatly improved explosives and the increase in crime, safe-breaking is steadily on the decrease. Like John Dillinger, who boasted he could clean out any bank in four minutes, the majority of hold-up men prefer the technique of rapid surprise. One of the Worralls' little gadget surprises is a drawer which protests its friends in silence but raises an alarm at the first sign of hostility. If valuables are removed in one particular way, all is well. If they are taken out in any other way, an alarm is immediately transmitted.

Keeping Their Secrets

But the Worralls seldom discuss their family secrets. If they make even a key for a customer they never keep a replica, nor even a record of the address for which it was ordered. Yet special books embodying most of their trade secrets have already been printed. With full working drawings of every kind of lock and safety device, intricate tables of figures cover every known combination. They would perhaps be worth a fortune to a modern raffles.

At Scotland Yard, as well as the offices of the principal safemakers, the few copies in existence, are kept in safes—safes, that, setting aside the combinations, only the Worralls can open.

A HUNGRY BOY'S DREAM—A rugged Italian waif, living in the wake of war, dreams of food. He will receive a glass of Canadian milk from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Canada and a score of other United Nations countries are helping the sick and hungry children of Europe and the East. The postal address "UNICEF, OTTAWA" is accepting funds from Canadians to buy Canadian food for such rugged babies as these. Six million children need help.

HOW-TO FIX-IT — By Harold Arnett

Helpful Hints For Busy Women

Badly shrunken sweaters make the most wonderful, warm, and attractive mittens. Starting with the knitted hand of the sweater as a cuff, I trace a pattern of the hand with the fingers together and thumb spread apart. Machine-stitch on the outside and buttonhole the edge with bright yarn.

* * *

A housewife, going about her daily dusting, can easily get at overhead cobwebs if she'll bind an ordinary paintbrush to the top of her broom handle. This gives her a very effective "two-way" sweeping unit.

* * *

To entertain small children indoors on wintry days, make finger painting of cleaning powder and cake coloring. Let them paint the porcelain table or the bathtub. They will love it, and you will, too, when you see how easily their art work washes off.

* * *

Work shavings and scraps from the workshop are not to excellent use at our house. We save them in paper bags, tie the necks of the bags tightly, and use this packaged material as kindling in our stove and fireplace all winter long.

* * *

To keep my galoshes from getting mixed with with others, I carry a small clothespin with my name on it right in my handbag. When I clip this onto my pair, it not only keeps them together, but helps me spot them in a minute, no matter how many nearby galoshes are exactly like them.

* * *

To patch boys' snowsuits, sweater elbows, or trouser knees, try cutting a round or oblong piece from an old leather purse or jacket. Sew it on by hand. You'll find you've increased the garment's wear—and even pepped it up—with the decorative patch.

* * *

Your rolling pin will be just where you want it—yet carefully out of the way—if you try this simple idea. Into the underside of a handy shelf, screw two large hooks spaced to support the rolling-pin handles. Set the pin on the hooks when it's out of use and it will be ready and waiting right there when next you need it.

* * *

Keep a "basting-thread" spool at your sewing machine. When you've used all but a yard or two from a spool of thread, wind it onto the special spool. You'll find that no matter what the color, it comes in ever-so handy when you have basting to do.

* * *

Here's a trick I've found to keep the tot's wax crayons from breaking easily while he colors. I wind the stem of every crayon with cellulose tape. Then as the point wears down, I simply peel the tape back a bit.

Took The Tip

A temperance lecturer had warmed up to her subject.

"Who has the most money to spend?" she thundered. "Who drives around in the finest car? The tavern keeper! Who has the finest fur coats? The tavern keeper's wife! And who pays for these pleasures? You do, my friend!"

Several days later a man and his wife who had been in the audience stopped the lecturer in the street and thanked her for her advice.

"I am glad indeed," she said, "that you have given up drink."

"Oh, we haven't done that," said the man. "We've bought a tavern."

THE FARM FRONT by John Russell

"On the road ahead," reports a man who recently did a lot of driving through the mid-west, "something showed up like a dark blur—just a little thicker than the surrounding night. I stepped hard on the brakes.

* * *

"Then my headlights caught the endgate of a farm wagon. No lantern. No reflector. Ahead, a tractor was pulling that wagon along toward the barnyard.

* * *

"Nobody was hurt. But I was scared to death. And I have wondered since how many accidents and near-accidents occur just because somebody forgets to put a lantern on the endgate."

* * *

And that traveller may well wonder. It's so easy to relax proper precautions when one is on familiar roads, close to home. Which might be as good a time as any to remind everybody, young and old, of something that a lot of us know we should do, yet so many of us neglect.

* * *

It's this: if walking along a highway after dusk, BE SURE AND WEAR SOMETHING LIGHT; AND IF YOU HAVEN'T ANY LIGHT COLORED CLOTHING CARRY A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF IN YOUR HAND, SO THAT IT WILL CATCH THE EYE OF AN ONCOMING MOTORIST. (Of course you always walk on the left side of the road, towards oncoming traffic; at least I hope you do.)

* * *

Now that I've started on the subject of safety and accident, here's something along the same line that might be worth calling to your attention. It's about the best way to cut down the number of hunting fatalities which take up so much space in the papers during the fall and winter. Here's the way an Editorial writer in the Agricultural News tells about it.

* * *

A hunter creeps stealthily through the forest. A twig snaps in a thicket ahead. He freezes in his tracks, his ears cocked. Dry leaves rustle. Another twig breaks. Something moves in the alders. A deer? It must be. Heart thumping wildly, he pulls up his rifle and lets fly at the moving shadow.

* * *

A human cry is heard almost simultaneously with the crack of the rifle. The hunter rushes forward. What he sees chills his blood. A fellow hunter is sprawled in the dry leaves . . . dead.

This scene, with variations, was repeated many times in the woods this past fall. Hunters were accidently killed because they were mistaken for game. Hunters were killed because fellow hunters tripped and discharged their weapons. Hunters killed themselves while climbing over fences and their guns went off accidently.

* * *

Out of all the investigations into such tragic deaths, one fact came out with stark clarity. No trigger-happy hunter belonged to a national shooting organization. This is borne out by the National Rifle Association in the U.S. which claims that in the many years for which statistics were compiled none of its 200,000 members had accidentally shot anyone. A senior official of the Canadian Small Bore Association (now the Canadian Civilian Association of Marksmen) maintains that for the 15 years he had been connected with it, not one of this group has been responsible for an accidental killing.

* * *

This revelation is highly significant. It obviously indicates that safety rules drilled into one on the target ranges are observed in the bush. It gives the answer to how accidents with firearms can be drastically reduced. That answer: join your local shooting club or organize one if there isn't one already. Become an active member and practice safety regulations until they become part of your instincts. If every would-be hunter did this, hunting would indeed become a safe sport.

* * *

Which should be about enough for just now—except to pass along a very ancient tale, which I hadn't heard for many years until a friend revived it the other day. Probably you'll recall it—the one about the stingiest man in town, who was too mean to buy his kids any Christmas presents, but was worried about what kind of excuses to make to them when they awoke and found the hung-up stockings empty.

* * *

So a bright thought came to him. Very early Christmas morning while it was still dark, he sneaked out of the house carrying his shotgun. Right outside the bedroom window he fired a shot. Then he rushed into the house shouting, "Oh, children, isn't it just too bad. Poor Santa Claus has just committed suicide—did you hear the shot?"

* * *

Not so hot? Well, I don't think so either. So I guess I'd better sign off, wishing to you and yours all the Compliments of the Season.

Now, Santa Will Come—Soft coal miner Joe Sloka and his wife, Naomi, help the [illegible] celebrate the fact that Santa isn't dead. John L. Lewis' order permitting the miners to work three days a week greatly improves chances that the Slokas and thousands like them will enjoy a merry Christmas.