MERCURY VAPOURS

by Warren R. Fisher

To avoid making decisions

Listed are 12 ways to avoid making a decision. Since this is the beginning of a new year, these suggestions are to be avoided:

1. Find a scapegoat and ride him. Americans can blame the Russians or vice versa. Both can blame the general apathy of the people or the atom bomb or the social order.

2. Profess not to have THE answer. That lets you out of having any answer.

3. Say that we must not move too rapidly. This avoids the necessity of getting started.

4. For every proposal, set up any opposite and conclude that the middle ground (no motion whatever) represents the wisest course of action.

5. Say that the problem can't be separated from other problems. Therefore, it can't be solved until all other problems have been solved.

6. Ask what is meant by the question. By the time it is clarified it will be time to go home.

7. Discover that there are all kinds of inherent dangers in any specific formation of conclusions; danger of seeming too pro-Russian, too anti-Semetic, of having your statement in the hands of the wrong people, or of committing the organization too deeply.

8. Appoint a committee.

9. Wait until an expert can be consulted.

10. State in conclusion that you have clarified your thinking. This completely obscures the fact that nothing has been done.

11. Point out how the deepest minds have struggled with the same problem. This implies that it gives you credit even to have thought of it.

12. In closing, thank the problem. It has stimulated the discussion, contributed to our growth, opened up new vistas, shown us the way, challenged our inventiveness. It may have wasted two perfectly good years, to be sure, but the problem should get the medal.

DOWN MEMORY LANE . . .

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, January 17, 1952

The Nicholas County Soil Conservation District began operation Sept. 25, 1943. It included 122,204 acres of farmland in Nicholas County.

During the past year $86,925 went to residents of Nicholas County in public assistance payments, according to a year-end report released Monday by the Department of Economic Security.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Richey entertained with a lovely surprise party Wednesday at their home in honor of their daughter, Lenore, who is celebrating her 16th birthday. Guests were: La Vonne Taylor, Shirley Jennings, Anna Lee Hollar, Peggy Small, Martha Ann Jernigan, Oral and Ralph Hollar, Luther Anderson, Billy, Bobby and Donnie Smith.

Lt. Jack Bowen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bowen, has completed a leave with his parents here and returned to San Diego, Calif.

BORN--To Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Bretz, a daughter Joyce Ann, Thursday.--To Mr. and Mrs. William Sims, Flemingsburg, a son William Malcolm Jr., Jan. 6.

MARRIED--Miss Nancy Shaw, Lexington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Youle Shaw, to Paul W. Smith, Lexington, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Smith, Mt. Sterling, Saturday.

DIED--Mrs. William McMahon, 76, in Covington, Jan. 4.--Linda Louise Earlywine, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Earlywine, Thursday.--Henry Duke Clary, 74, Thursday.--Ed Lee Wasson, 82, Sunday at his home.--John Conway (Judge) Talbott, 80, Sunday in Cynthiana.--Mrs. Jane Green Cameron, 84, Monday in Millersburg.--William T. Richey, 76, Tuesday.

Thursday, January 14, 1932

Mr. William Harper invents electric device that opens and closes garage door for his garage.

Archie Morford Howard, little son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Howard Jr., suffered a broken collar bone Monday when he fell off a davenport at their home on West Main Street.

Sam K. Meach is moving his store this week from the building of Santee & White, four doors below his present location. The room, which was formerly occupied by Kroger's store, has been remodeled.

The Nicholas County Board of Education reorganized the first of the year with the following officers: T.L. Clark, chairman; W.S. Gaunce, vice chairman; Mrs. Eda S. Taylor, secretary and Mrs. Nelle Brayfield, treasurer.

Considerable damage to the court house was caused by high wind Tuesday night. One of the large chimneys was blown down and several sections of the slate roof were broken. Some of the rafters were also broken and several windows were blown out.

With both teams playing a strictly defensive game, Carlisle High School Musketeers lost to Nicholasville here last Friday night by a score of 11 to 6.

Although a large number of farmers attended the meeting of tobacco growers held in the court house Monday to discuss pooling burley tobacco, very few contracts were signed. Farmers in this county so far have taken little interest in the movement to pool low grades of the present corp for next year's crop.

Meetings are being arranged by County Agent R.J. Matson in different communities of Nicholas County to discuss the agricultural situation and to lay plans for the 1932 work.

The total amount of money on deposit in the four banks in Nicholas County at the close of business on December 31, was $1,079,634.30, showing an increase of $37,290.02 in the past six months.

The Carlisle Mercury

Established 1867

Published every Thursday at 232 Locust Street, Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40311.

Warren R. Fisher, Editor & Publisher (Mrs.) Katherine T. Fisher, Associate Editor; Mrs. Joseph H. Conley, News Editor.

Subscription Rates: In Kentucky, one year $4.00 plus tax $4.20. Out-of-State, one Year $5.00.

MEMBER:
The Kentucky Press Association Inc.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION SINCE 1885
Read Press Key a Key
NNA SUSTAINING MEMBER -- 1972

This week I thought would be a good week, that is nothing much out of the ordinary to do. One in which I could follow the usual routine, try to get enough bread in to meet expenses, then do the kitchen range Monday afternoon and maybe have time at night for a little hobby of mine, but I reckoned without consulting one of the machines known in this shop as a reproducer.

You are just a slave to what the gals punch on paper tape and generally it bounces along at 100 words per minute with little or no attention other than inserting fresh paper, a new tape or changing the carbon ribbon. That is, it does all these things when it wants to. Such was not the case today.

Two hours this morning I fiddled with that confounded carbon ribbon, (the carbon is coated on a polyethylene film) that likes to stick to everything, it's full of static. After using a high-powered solvent that can practically take the hide off one's fingers and doing a little bending and twisting and answering questions, such as, "Don't you have a maintenance contract?" To which I replied, "Yep, it costs better than eleven smackers a week." The thing decided to work, and properly too, may I add.

That was in the morning. Now no sooner than when I had drawn-off the necessary chemicals to tray develop about a dozen halftones from pictures brought to the office and ones taken either by myself or Rob Lane, I hear a plaintive voice asking, "Is Mr. Fisher in the darkroom?" Well I dropped the negative in the tray, That was about 3 p.m. The next time I saw the inside of the darkroom was 7:30.

Now it didn't take all that time to fix the gadget again, but you see I got into territory that was strange to say the least, that plus the fact that 16 little tiny steel balls fell out and scattered in all directions, a spring that looks thus

bounced out, a pin with a rubber roller had already come loose and was on the floor. Really I guess I should have gone home and tried getting up all over again.

If it hadn't been for the keen eyes of Mrs. Michael Bucknér, I wouldn't have known there were 16 steel balls. Sure I could see the trouble, the problem was getting at it.

Three separate phone calls to Lexington, since I had no blueprints, to question a serviceman and three hours later it was working again. Now the big question is, for how long?

On the first call, they (the Lexington outfit) stated they'd have a serviceman drop by sometime Tuesday, and no doubt he will. But in this business if everything was put off until tomorrow, there'd never be an issue of The Carlisle Mercury.

--MV--

In reference to the above, on the third call to Lexington I inquired as to the going rate for apprentice Justowriter repairmen only to be informed that what I was doing was the easy part, just wait until you get into the outer section they pointed out. Frankly I want no part of it, even though they may be paying $18 per hour, I'll have to make mine some other way.

--MV--

They say: Opportunity knocks, but temptation kicks the door down. I wonder what tempted me to get into this business.

FARM & HOME

County Extension Agents
Estil J. Noffsinger,
Sara Swango, Mrs. Margie Wilson

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Several important events are coming up in the Bluegrass Area which are of interest to Nicholas County farmers. The 49th annual date for the Swine Carcass Show at the Paris Stock Yards, Swine producers are eligible to show barrows in the light weight and heavy weight singles classes. Then a new class has been added among commercial producers, a pen of three light or heavy weight barrows. County Agents Estil Noffsinger and Ralph Brookshire are members of the show committee. As soon as the show results will be held at the East Kentucky RECC building near Winchester on Friday, Jan. 28. Varieties, fertilizing, weed and insect control, and other important production practices will be discussed by university specialists.

The number of soil samples tested increased materially during 1971. This trend is expected to continue as more farmers are realizing the importance of the soil test in planning their fertilizer program. Producers are urged to collect their samples before the spring rush. Favorable days in January usually permit soil sampling. Divide fields into 10-15 acre units for sampling. Keep ridgetop, hillside, and bottom land samples separate. Pull 10-12 samples from each area, mix them thoroughly in a plastic bucket and take about a pint of soil for the analysis. Soil sampling bags are available in the Extension Office.

USE OF FEED CONTAINING DIETHYLSTILBESTROL

Diethylstilbestrol, a growth hormone, has been used extensively for several years in feeds, primarily for finishing beef cattle. The withdrawal period has recently been changed by the Federal Food and Drug Administration from 48 hours to 7 days. This means that feeders finishing cattle for market and using a feed containing diethylstilbestrol must switch to a non-medicated feed for the last 7 days before the animals are sent to market.

Change in the withdrawal period was made because residues of the drug were found in 10 samples of meat in the United States. No detectable residues of diethylstilbestrol were permitted in meat. All the samples containing residues were liver tissue; none has been found in muscle tissue.

Extensive tests of meats are being made and any residue of diethylstilbestrol discovered in meat will subject the seller of the animal producing the meat to prosecution.

WHAT TO DO WITH LEFT-OVER PESTICIDES DURING THE WINTER

Many liquid pesticide formulations are damaged by cold temperatures. Some will separate at temperatures below 40 degrees. To be safe, store liquid materials in a heated area.

All left-over pesticides should be stored in a dry area. This area should be specifically for storing pesticides and NOTHING ELSE, and should be located so that normal work will not involve using it. Be sure to KEEP IT LOCKED so accessible these materials can be controlled.

This winter might be a good time to consider building a pesticide storage room or cabinet for year-round use. This should be easily accessible to the user, but clearly marked on all sides so its contents are easily known. It does not have to be a separate structure, a portion of an existing building can be walled-off to serve the purpose. But be sure to provide a means of locking it. And KEEP IT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.

LETTERS from our readers

Editor, The Carlisle Mercury:

Perhaps I can shed a little light on the latest outburst about the Falmouth Dam. A national inventioneering magazine is coming to the rescue of the harassed residents of the Licking River Valley. Their representatives have toured the valley, have met with its people and have analyzed the situation. They have also met with the Corps of Engineers in the District Office in Louisville. That office is a branch of the Division Office in Cincinnati from which Gen. Starnes' letter emanated.

The Corps is on the defensive and I cautiously predict we shall hear mountainous waves of oratory on the necessity for damming the last clean, free-flowing pastoral river in this region.

All Gen Starnes is saying is that Cave Run, Falmouth, Salyersville and Hinkston are all the dams they plan to construct immediately. No Sir, they don't plan to dam Town Branch or Brushy Fork. At least, not now. That can wait. Someone has said, "If an engineer finds a trickle of water in a faucet, he starts trying to dam it." Justice William O. Douglas says the Corps is "Public Enemy No. 1." I concur.

In 1932 this project was evaluated by engineers and high officials in the "War Department" including the president of the Mississippi River Commission. It was rejected because costs greatly exceeded benefits. (H.R. document No. 86) the only new feature since then is the idea of recreation. That looms as the major objective of the project -- a recreation area for Cincinnati and surrounding towns. It all boils down to selfish financial interests of those who have no regard for the catastrophe to the valley and its residents.

Now the interesting thing is that to stop destruction of 45,000 acres of the best land in the state, the victim of the planned obliteration of the present fishery, and the wildlife habitat we now have, may become a menace to the Environmental Defense Fund, a national organization dedicated to preserving our American Heritage. Regular memberships are $10.00; associate, $25.00. Blanks may be obtained from any official of Licking Valley Protective Association, or from the writer.

Sincerely,
Louise S. Linville
Route 1, Ewing, Ky. 41039

Agree Or Not

I Say What I Think

by S. C. VanCuron

FRANKFORT--A funny thing happened, maybe not funny but very strange, on the way to the 1972 General Assembly that convened here Jan. 4--

Absent from the pre-legislative conference at Kentucky Dam Village in December were people soliciting support from legislators for the lucrative posts of Clerk of the House and Senate and other constitutional jobs the legislators have to hand out to their supporters.

The press did not know until the legislature convened who had been selected for these positions by the majority party, a right reserved for them because of sheer numbers of votes in both branches of the General Assembly.

The press got informed when the names were read and called to the front of each branch of the legislature to be sworn in to these offices.

The clerk's posts pay $35 a day for each legislative day, 60 of them, from Jan. 4 to March 17, and a little time before in preparation for the legislature, and some days after it ends to wind up the business of the session. Other jobs, such as sergeant-at-arms, chief doorkeeper, cloakroom keeper, janitor who doesn't push a broom, pages, etc, draw pay in descend-

Continued on page 3

KU backs request for higher electric rates

Frankfort--Kentucky Utilities Company has backed up its request for increased electric rates with evidence of the need for the additional revenues to meet substantially higher operating costs and to attract the investment capital for its necessary construction program.

Without increased rates, W.A. Duncan, KU president, told the Public Service Commission of Kentucky, the company "cannot continue sound financially and continue its ability to grow, as its customers' needs demand that it grow, so as to continue providing required amounts of dependable service."

"Virtually every expense of carrying out the operations of the company has increased substantially," he said singling out the cost of fuel--KU experienced a 75 per cent increase in the price of the coal it used during the last two years--as probably the most significant increase in operating costs.

"Since we spend about $20 million a year for coal--fuel being about 26 per cent of our operating expenses--an increase of 75 percent in the unit cost of coal obviously has a very substantial effect on our operating costs."

He explained that present fuel adjustment clauses allow the company to recover only about half of the increases in its fuel and purchase power costs.

In order to continue to supply adequate and reliable service, Mr. Duncan stated, during the six years, 1971 through 1976, the company will have to spend $489,648,000 for additions to its facilities. In these six years, the KU will have to far more than double its investment to supply its customers.

Of this construction figure, KU will probably have to spend a minimum of $77.5 million for environmental control equipment within the next five years, Mr. Duncan testified, adding that the expenditures for such items as electrostatic precipitators to control dust emission, scrubbing devices to control sulfur emissions or cooling towers "do not increase the revenue producing capability of the company's system. Instead, they decrease the power producing capability and efficiency of the generating facilities on which they are installed" and increase expenses associated with these facilities.

He noted that a substantial part of the growth in the electrical requirements which the company must equip itself to supply is represented in the increased usage of existing customers.

"It is the general pattern in the industry, and our company is no exception that loads double about every seven to 10 years. Everybody is simply using more electricity. For example, a few years ago, few of our residential customers had air conditioners; now 49 per cent have either window units or central systems. Everyone now has at least one television, and many have two or more. One-third of our customers now have food freezers. All residential customers are adding electric appliances; and many of our industrial customers are expanding their usages."

Mr. Duncan pointed out that the company had lowered its rates during each of the years 1962 through 1967 and that the new rates the company seeks would result in returning the company's general level of rates to slightly below that which existed in 1961.

Other witnesses testifying in detail concerning the factors they said make it necessary that KU seek the increases in its rates were A.C. Anderson, controller; W. B. Bechanan, assistant vice president; John S. Ferguson, W. Truslow Hyde Jr., A. Clay Stewart, financial vice president; John T. Newton, secretary and treasurer; J.W. Bradley, assistant vice president, and William Eyere, Mr. Hyde is a well-known financial consultant from New York, and Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Eyers are Middle West Service Company engineers. The others are KU officers.

Agree or Not

Continued from page two

ing order according to their importance.

It was generally understood by members of press row that Mrs. Addie Stokely, a veteran of many years of service in the House Clerk's office, would be chosen for Clerk of the House, but it was a complete surprise to newsmen that Mrs. Blanche Mahoney of Louisville, unknown in the marble halls of the Capitol, was named as clerk of the Senate.

The question is, did the legislators have any say in choosing the people who will serve them?

For example, Gov. Edward T. Breathitt used every pressure possible to get the House to elect former State Senator Alvin Kidwell, D-Sparta, as House Clerk for the 1964 session.

Kidwell was dean of the Senate when he retired in 1963 and was president pro-tem the last two terms he served.

House Democrats revolted and elected Democrat Troy Sturgill, of Prestonsburg, who served as clerk with the help of mountain Republicans under Gov. Bert T. Combs.

They elected Jim Whitlock, a former Democratic state representative from Lebanon as clerk for the 1966 session. Whitlock actively campaigned for the job and found ample support.

In the 1968 and 70 sessions, former Democrat State Representative Johnny Greene of Sandy Hook actively campaigned for the House Clerk's post and was successful. His tenure may or may have been satisfying to him under the conditions he had to work, but he won, and got paid.

Former Lt. Gov. Emerson "Doc" Beaushamp was an active campaigner for clerk of the Senate under Nunn and was successful with his Democrat colleagues.

Under Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, Mary Elizabeth Lord, daughter of Democrat strongman from Sanders of Pikeville, a former Senate Clerk himself, campaigned and won the Senate Clerk's post under Breathitt--the full four years.

Several newsmen attending the pre-legislative conference at Kentucky Dam Village got so engrossed in trying to figure out who was going to be elected to party leadership posts in both branches of the Legislature that they overlooked the constitutional offices of those who have the final say in the Assembly.

Questions from newsmen after the pre-legislative conference to administration leaders found no response. In fact, Gov. Wendell Ford told one newsman at Kentucky Dam Village that it "would not be fair to speculate" on who could be chosen for the choice service posts.

How strong is J.R. Miller, the chief strategist and supporter of Ford from the primary campaign on through the general election?

Only time will be the answer to how the lucrative serice positions were filled.

In Service

Army private Wilburn J. Kerns, son of Mrs. May B. Kerns, Ewing Route 2, recently was assigned to the U.S. Army Depot at Long Binh Post, Vietnam.

Pvt. Kerns, a member of company C at Long Binh Post, entered the Army in 1969.

His wife, Rosa, is in Munich, Germany.

Ky., Ohio sign income tax pact

The Kentucky and Ohio revenue departments have signed a reciprocal agreement exempting persons living in one state and working in the other from paying income tax in the state of employment.

The agreement was reached by Kentucky Revenue Commissioner John M. Ross and his Ohio counterpart Robert J. Loaydar.

The decision means Kentuckians who work in Ohio will not be required to pay income tax there and vice versa for Ohio residents working in Kentucky.

The Ohio legislature only recently passed an income tax for that state.

The agreement is provided for in both Kentucky and Ohio income tax laws and regulations. It applies only to income from salaries and wages.

The City of Carlisle Financial Report for 1971. These are not the figures from an audit.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1971.

POLICE COURT REPORT

MONTH	FINES COLLECTED	PARKING METERS	TOTAL
Jan.	$305.00	$668.94	$709.94
Feb.	785.00	330.49	1,115.49
March	520.50	359.89	880.39
April	597.00	373.39	970.39
May	242.25	414.75	657.00
June	326.00	547.00	873.00
July	766.50	339.81	1,106.31
Aug.	1,030.75	424.56	1,455.86
Sept.	519.75	390.77	910.52
Oct.	526.25	329.45	855.70
Nov.	451.75	362.19	813.94
Dec.	691.00	394.75	885.75
	$6,871.75	$6,419.14	$11,300.89

1971 Taxes collected Jan. 1, 1972 $22,975.01
1971 Taxes to collect Dec. 31, 1971 $1,070.95

FINANCIAL REPORT

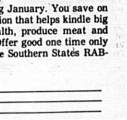
	Dec. 31st	Present
Operation & Maintenance	$ 4,320.71	$15,223.66
City Operating Acct.	3,185.87	8,320.74
Streets & Alleys Acct.	690.01	2,255.01
Revenue Acct.	30,353.42	24,114.31
Bond & Int. Red. Fund	$5,346.75	
Depreciation Fund (Savings)	$3,151.92	
Reserve Fund (Savings)	$3,523.75	

GASOLINE REPORT IN 1971.

MONTH	AMOUNT
Jan.	$161.46
Feb.	63.86
March	137.77
April	140.16
June	315.32
July	430.82
Aug.	376.99
Dec.	130.23
	$2,164.46

10 DAYS ONLY!
HAPPY HOME VALUES
JANUARY SALE
Save 25%
REGULAR $6.25
$4.69 GALLON
LATEX WALL
DECORATOR COLORS
GET MAGIC PAINT GUARANTEE
Reid & Vice, Builders Supply

How to Get 25 lbs. of RABBIT FEED FREE



- Cut out this ad and bring it in. It entitles you to receive 25 pounds of Southern States RABBIT MAKER free with purchase of 50 pounds during January. You save on the pelleted complete ration that helps kindle big litters, maintain top health, produce meat and pelts at minimum cost. Offer good one time only per family. Get your free Southern States RABBIT MAKER now.

NAME_____
ADDRESS_____
NO. ADULT RABBITS_____

Southern States Carlisle Cooperative
Phone 289-2161 Carlisle, Ky.
Your Southern States Cooperative Agency

UP TO 30% OFF
All over the store

Chairs, lamps, pictures, tables, smoking stands, living room, dining room, bedroom suites, odd pieces.

Wise to Buy Your Straw Hat in the Winter Time!

Air Conditioners
18,000 BTU $288.00
8,000 BTU $179.00

Here's your chance to carpet every room in plush elegance.
Large room size rugs up to 12' x 18' only $77.00
All first quality mill ends.
9 x 12 Gold Seal Linoleum Rugs $8.99 while they last

25% Off on all Wrought Iron furniture.

Lucite Inside Paint $5.29 per gal.

All sale items subject to stock on hand.

Garrett's Furniture

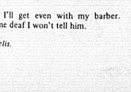
What keeps Kentucky running?

Every one of us uses an average of three gallons of oil every day.
So do all the other 205 million Americans. Oil and natural gas supply 75 percent of our energy needs: almost all transportation, most of what is used for cooking and heating, more than 40 percent of all our electricity.
A country that runs on oil can't afford to run short.

Your Local Oil Companies
For more information write Kentucky Petroleum Council
2125 Commonwealth Bldg., Louisville, Kentucky 40202

THE PIED TYPER
By Dave Mely
National Award-Winning Syndicated Hometown Columnist

I smell an error--
ancestors smelled each other



In reading a tourist release from the Kentucky Department of Information some time ago, I discovered a slight mistake. Ordinarily, I allow for some margin of error in these epistles, because when you are trying to lure flatland furriners into your state, you are permitted to stretch a point here and there. Or even lie.

The news blurb related the fact that buckskin-clad Kentuckians will take up their muzzle-loading rifles again to try to match the brilliant feats of their frontier ancestors. In one paragraph, it said: "A good frontier long-rifleman could easily fell a man from a distance of 300 yards. That's about three times the effective range of the old musket."

I believe what the writer meant to say was "a good frontier long-rifleman could easily smell a man from a distance of 300 yards . . ."

Since not too many frontier cabins had hot and cold running water, it is pretty safe to assume that our ancestors took no more baths than necessary, regardless of how few that was. Maybe he got one when he got married, at hog-killing time and when they put him away in a pine box, but other than that there just wasn't any call for one.

After wearing a buckskin outfit all winter without a change, I am sure the air for at least 300 yards around him would be a blue haze. Strong enough to stun a buffalo at 50 paces. That's why old buffalo hunters used to smear buffalo dung on their clothes when they wanted to get in close for the kill. This improvement in odor helped considerably.

Shooting down a fellow at 300 yards with a muzzle-loader is a neat trick and I would not say just any old ancestor could pull it off. My Uncle Boomer was one who could. He is my most famous rifle-shooting ancestor. In fact, he became noted as a great hunter, although he never learned how to carve his initials on trees so Dan'l Boone beat him out in the advertising department.

One of the stories he used to tell was the day he was hunting in the Big Smokies when he ran low on ammunition. Actually, he was down to his last charge of powder and was heading home over a narrow mountain trail when he met a big, mean bear. The bear chased him and before Uncle Boomer knew it, he had himself boxed in up a blind canyon.

Uncle Boomer was a cool 'un. He crouched behind a tree and watched the bear coming slowly at him through the thicket. The bear stopped for a moment behind some rocks and Uncle Boomer knew it was now or never. Only trouble was he'd have to back the bullet off the rock wall right into the bear's eyeball to stop him cold.

But uncle knew all the woods tricks, like Kentucky windage, angles of ricocheting bullets and angle of trajectory. So he studied the rock wall for a minute, picked out the exact spot where he would pinpoint the rifle ball, leveled down on it and gently squeezed the trigger.

Uncle Boomer could have gone on for years telling and retelling this great feat of marksmanship -- except for one little thing.

He missed the rock wall.

-tpt-

You made a mistake in your paper last week -

We hear this same thing week after week. It's possible although we seldom admit it.

Someone with more smarts than the law allows sat down and mathematically figured up how many mistakes it was possible to make in a single line of type.

He came up with 2007.

With morning sickness and a nervous index finger, "any decent typist can run the odds even past that figure. Showing up for work is usually her first mistake.

Calculating eight lines to the column inch and any issue of your newspaper averaging at least 600 column inches of type, you come up with the odds of more than 2½ million-to-one that there will be a mistake in that issue.

It has been said the Chinese always added at least one mistake to each newspaper they printed to show that mortal man is not perfect. The communists improved on this idea by making everything in their papers a mistake.

No one ever tells us we made no mistakes in our paper. That doesn't bother me. Like Winston Churchill, my tastes are very simple. I am easily pleased with the best of everything.

-tpt-

When I have nothing better to do, I get a haircut. It doesn't do much for me, but it stimulates the sharp wit and uncivilized humor of my friends. My barber is pleased, too. He can massage my skull with a pair of clippers and pick up the easiest money of his life.

Then there is always the gay dog who rushes up, yells "rinctums" and takes a short thumb and forefinger nip of the hair because that was the hilarious thing to do in high school.

I don't mind adult idiots making cracks about my head of skin, but when a mother points toward me and tells her little son he will look like this if he doesn't shape up and sit still for the barber, I bristle. She should be so lucky.

In a small town, you don't always go to a barber shop to get a haircut. Aside from learning the latest scuttlebutt, you can sneak knives, guns, dogs, horses or houses, get caught up on your reading, pass along a message to other fellows and get advice on any problem from nagging wives to ingrown toenails. The benefits are endless.

Barbers are a breed all their own. I have had bald-headed barbers give me advice on how to grow hair. One wanted to bet me he could cut my hair blindfolded. I later wished I had. One fellow did his trimming by appointment only and still another was a parttime plumber and used the same technique and tools giving haircuts and thawing pipes. Occasionally you find one who sharpens his razor on a strap instead of your head.

There was a time when voices singing in harmony could be heard coming out of barber shops. This was promoted by barbers to drown out the agonizing screams of their customers getting peeled by dull hand clippers.

Some day I'll get even with my barber. When I become deaf I won't tell him.

Semper fidelis.