

Morning Breaks

March 2026

Volume 27 Number 09

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

March 1, 2026

We had made some changes in our lives.

My husband had lost 50 pounds and after eight years of being a housewife, I had taken a job in a restaurant.

When I returned home after my first day at work, I gave my husband a big hug.

He seemed to cling to me longer than usual.

"Did you really miss me that much today, dear?" I asked.

"No," came the reply.

"But you smell so much like pancakes that I hate to let you go."

Quickly running into a nearby coffee shop, I ordered a hot chocolate as I don't drink coffee. The waitress, seeing the bill in my hand, asked if I had anything smaller.

"No", I said, "I'm sorry, I don't."

"It's your lucky day, then" she said, handing me the hot chocolate. "We don't have any change, so your chocolate is on the house!"

Confidence is the feeling you have before you really understand the problem.

The paving of a main dirt road had finally been completed.

Only days later an elderly man pulled out of a side street into the path of an oncoming truck traveling on the newly paved road. No one was hurt, but the vehicles were damaged beyond repair.

A witness to the accident asked the elderly man why he had pulled out in front of the truck. "Didn't you see it coming?"

"I slowed down and looked both ways," he explained, "but I didn't see any dust."

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.



I was headed to the dentist's early one morning, but when I pulled up to a parking meter, I realized I didn't have any change. As I got out of my car, I saw a parking officer heading my way. I called out to him that I was going to get some change for the meter and asked him not to give me a ticket. He said that if the meter wasn't set by the time he got to it, I would get a ticket.

Since I was a new patient, I had to fill out an information form for the doctor's files. The nurse reading it over noticed my unusual name.

"How do you pronounce it?" she asked.

"Na-le-Y-ko," I said, proud of my Ukrainian heritage.

"That sounds real nice," she said, smiling.

"Yes, it is melodious," I agreed.

"So," she asked sweetly, "what part of Melodia is your family from?"



The only people who listen to both sides of an argument are the neighbors.

One reason why computers can do more work than people is that they never have to stop and answer the phone.

My husband and I found a charming bed-and-breakfast nestled in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Though enchanted, I nonetheless had some questions about the accommodations.

"Does the room have its own bath?" I asked.

Nodding, the proprietor answered, "If no one else shows up, it does."

At our daughter's high school graduation, I couldn't help noticing a young man sporting a long bleached blond ponytail sprouting from the top of his otherwise shaved head. A heavy link chain hung around his neck, and one ear displayed several earrings.

I had to smile when I heard him say to his friend, "Man, I feel so out of place. I'm the only guy here not wearing a tie."

The things that come to those who wait are usually the things left by those who got there first.

I was preparing to go cash a paycheck when I realized my husband hadn't signed it. So I sent our four-year-old daughter upstairs to "get Daddy's name on the back of it."

She came back, handed it to me, and said, "I knew his name so I did it myself."

On the back of the check, she had printed, "D-A-D".

Little known fact: Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the US Treasury.

Mary decides to consult a diet doctor. "What's the most you've ever weighed?" he asks her.

"One hundred fifty-nine pounds."

"And the least?"

"Six pounds four ounces."



Volume 27 Number 10

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March 8, 2027

Our neighbor loaned me his old chain saw to trim some tree branches.

Unfortunately, the engine burned out while I was using it. Not wanting to return a broken piece of equipment, I bought a new saw to replace it.

When I offered it to our neighbor, he thanked me but said, "Keep it. I'll just borrow it when I need it."

I was turning away when his eyes lit up. "Hey," he asked, "want to borrow my truck?"



HOW TO WRITE A COLLEGE PAPER

1. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a well-lighted place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.

2. Read over the assignment carefully, to make certain you understand it.

3. Walk down to the vending machines and buy some coffee to help you concentrate.

4. Stop off at the third floor, on the way back and visit with your friend from class. If your friend hasn't started the paper yet either, you can both walk to McDonalds and buy a hamburger to help you concentrate. If your friend shows you his paper, typed, double-spaced, and bound in one of those irritating see-thru plastic folders, drop him.

5. When you get back to your room, sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a clean, well-lighted place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.

6. Read over the assignment again to make absolutely certain you understand it.

7. You know, you haven't written to that kid you met at camp since fourth grade. You'd better write that letter now and get it out of the way so you can concentrate.

8. Go look at your teeth in the bathroom mirror.

9. Listen to one of your favorite CDs and that's it, I mean it, as soon as it's over you are going to start that paper.

10. Rearrange all of your CDs into alphabetical order.

11. Phone your friend on the third floor and ask if he's started writing yet. Exchange remarks about your teacher, the course, the university, and the world at large.

12. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a clean, well-lighted place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.

13. Read over the assignment again; roll the words across your tongue; savor its special flavor.

14. Check the newspaper listings to make sure you aren't missing something truly worthwhile on TV. NOTE: When you have a paper due in less than 12 hours, anything on TV from Masterpiece Theater to Sgt. Preston of the Yukon is truly worthwhile, with these

exceptions: a) Pro Bowler's Tour b) any movie starring Don Ameche.

15. Catch the last hour of Soul Brother of Kung Fu on channel 26.

16. Phone your friend on the third floor to see if he was watching. Discuss the finer points of the plot.

17. Go look at your tongue in the bathroom mirror.

18. Look through your roommate's book of pictures from home. Ask who everyone is.

19. Sit down and do some serious thinking about your plans for the future.

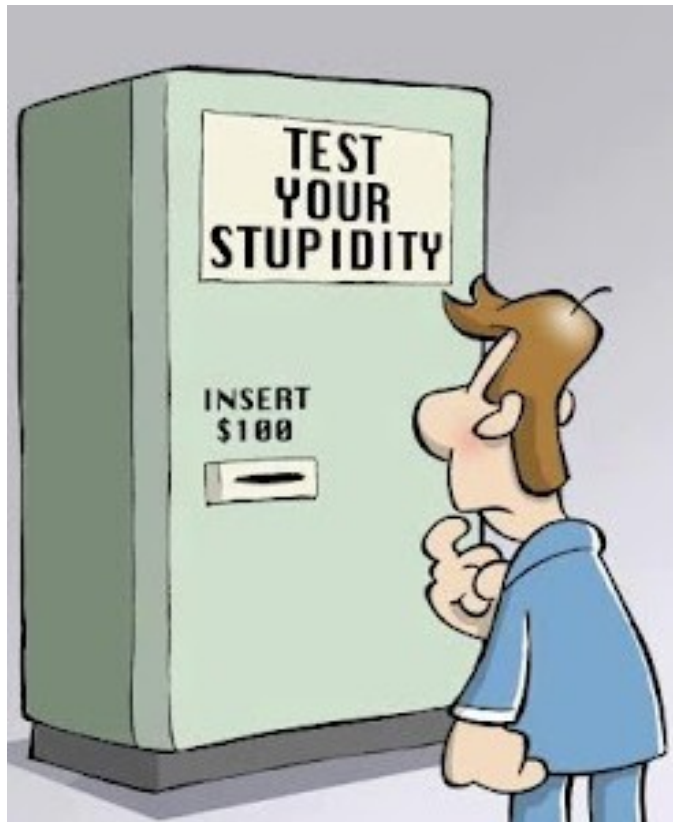
20. Open your door and check to see if there are any mysterious trench-coated strangers lurking in the hall.

21. Sit in a straight, comfortable chair in a clean, well-lighted place with plenty of freshly sharpened pencils.

22. Read over the assignment one more time, just for the thrill of it.

23. Scoot your chair across the room to the window and watch the sunrise.

24. Lie face down on the floor and moan.



I'm a police officer and occasionally park my cruiser in residential areas to watch for speeders.

One Sunday morning I was staked out in a driveway, when I saw a large dog trot up to my car. He stopped and sat just out of arm's reach. No matter how much I tried to coax him to come for a pat on the head, he refused to budge.

After a while I decided to move to another location. I pulled out of the driveway, looked back and learned the reason for the dog's stubbornness. He quickly picked up the newspaper I had been parked on and dutifully ran back to his master.

I don't mind getting old. It's the side effects I hate.

We were staying at a country resort and became friendly with the handyman. "My neighbor has a nice little cottage for sale, case you're interested," he told us.

Despite its run-down appearance, we fell in love with the place and bought it "as is."

The day we moved in, our new friend dropped by. "You got a good buy, " he admitted. "Cottage needs some work though. Roof leaks, plumbing's shot and the well runs dry in the summer."

Dismayed, I retorted, "Why didn't you tell us that before we bought it?"

"Weren't neighbors then," he replied.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

A man, fond of practical jokes, decided late one night to send his friend a collect telegram which read: "I am perfectly well."

A week later, the joker received a heavy parcel...collect...on which he had to pay considerable charges. Upon opening it, he found a big block of concrete which had this message:

"This is the weight your telegram lifted from my mind."



Volume 27 Number 11

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

March 15, 2026

Aboard a flight from Los Angeles to New York, an elderly lady was taking her very first flight.

They had only been aloft a few minutes when she complained to the flight attendant that her ears were popping.

The attendant smiled and gave the older woman some chewing gum, assuring her that many people experienced the same discomfort.

When they landed in New York, Grandma thanked the flight attendant. "The chewing gum worked fine," she said, "but tell me, how do I get it out of my ears?"

When your pet bird sees you reading the newspaper, does he wonder why you're just sitting there, staring at carpeting?

Over the years, my husband and I have usually managed to decode the cute but confusing gender signs sometimes put on restaurant restroom doors (Buoys and Gulls, Laddies and Lassies, etc.), but every so often we get stumped.

Recently my husband wandered off in search of the men's room and found himself confronted by two marked doors. One was labeled "Bronco," and the other was designated "Cactus."

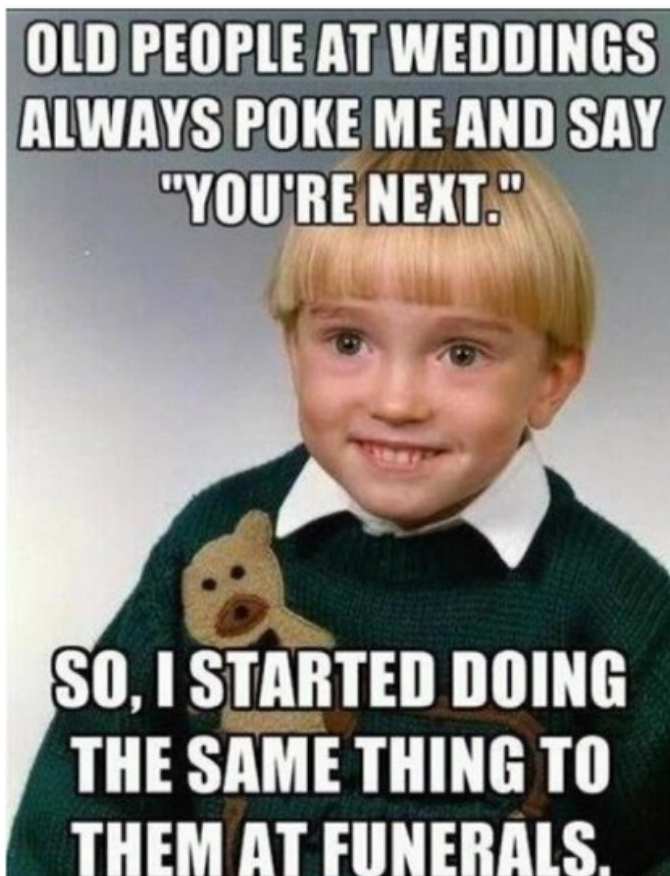
Completely baffled, he stopped a restaurant employee passing by. "Excuse me. I need to use the restroom," he said. Gesturing toward the doors, he asked, "Which one should I use?"

"Actually, we would prefer you to go there," the employee said, pointing to a door down the hall marked "Men." "Bronco and Cactus are private dining rooms."

What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? (A stick.)

I was leaving for a two-day conference, and my seven-year-old daughter was becoming overly clinging and teary.

I was mystified at her emotional reaction until I heard her say to my husband, "Daddy, I have a loose tooth. If it falls out while Mommy is gone, do you know how to handle this tooth fairy thing?"

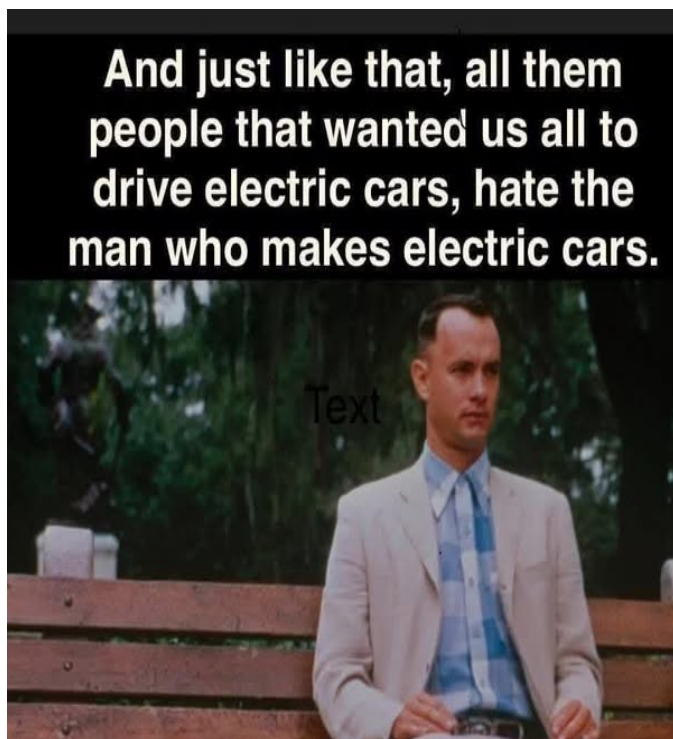


We recently bought a new car.

I can remember the days when we would get in and take a deep breath and enjoy the new car smell. Wishing it came in a spray mist so you could enjoy it forever.

But a little knowledge takes the joy out of even that, now all we could think of was the off-gassing coming from the various plastics, upholstery, and glues holding it together.

I guess awareness is progress, but it sure does ruin the mood.



I went to school to become a wit; only got halfway through.

Two judges, both from small counties, got arrested for speeding on the same day. Rather than call the state Supreme Court for a visiting judge, each agreed to hear the other's case.

The first judge took the bench while the second stood at the defendant's table, and admitted his guilt. The

sentencing judge immediately suspended both the fine and costs.

They switched places. The second judge admitted that he was speeding, too. Thereupon the first judge immediately fined him \$250 and ordered him to pay court costs.

The second judge was furious. "I suspended your fine and costs, but you threw the book at me!" he fumed. The first judge looked at him and replied, "This is the second such case we've had in here today. Someone has to get tough about all this speeding!"

I finally got my head together. Now my body is falling apart.

A few friends and I were discussing diet tips.

When it was mentioned that getting enough exercise and sleep were just as important as watching food intake, someone responded with surprise that sleep was a factor.

Another replied: "Of course sleep has a lot to do with dieting. The only time I'm not eating is when I'm sleeping!"

Just because you have the right to do something, doesn't mean it's the right thing to do.

It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

The kindergarten teacher was standing outside her room as the children entered one morning. Along came little David, deliberately winking his left eye.

"Why, David," said the teacher, "Are you winking at me?"

"No, just got my turn signal on," David replied, making a neat left turn into his room.

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Volume 27 Number 12

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

March 22, 2026

The "Zero Tolerance Bonehead Award" goes to the (name removed) Elementary School in Ohio for seeking the suspension of a 6-year-old student on a "dangerous weapons violation" because he took a plastic butter knife from the school cafeteria and put it in his backpack so he could take it home and show his mother that he can butter his toast by himself.

Now the boy faces a 6-month suspension. In response, the parents have hired a lawyer, and say that if the school continues to seek a suspension, then they will seek in return to have criminal charges brought against the school for "supplying dangerous weapons to children."

A high-school geometry teacher started a lesson on triangles by reading a theorem. "If an angle is an exterior angle of a triangle, then its measure is greater than the measure of either of its corresponding remote interior angles."

He noticed that one student wasn't taking notes and asked him why.

"Well," the student replied sincerely, "I was waiting for you to start speaking English."

In the line-up at the store, I overheard the checker ask the lady in front of me if she had an air miles card.

"Oh, yes," she said. "I have enough air miles to get to Philadelphia, where my son lives."

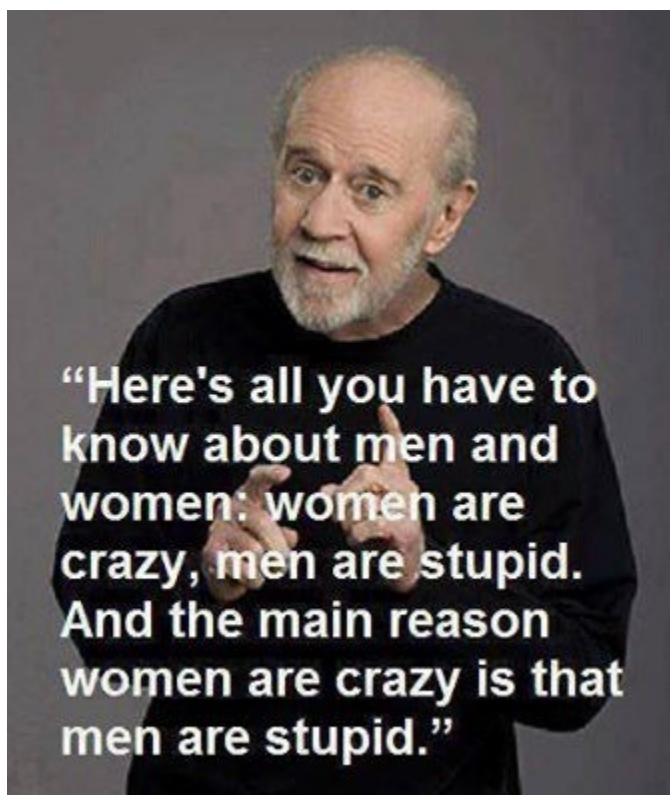
"That's wonderful," said the cashier.

"My son doesn't think so," the lady replied. "I don't have enough to get back."

If the universe is really expanding, why can't I find a parking space?

Having just completed my training as the hospital's switchboard operator, I was reasonably confident that I knew all the codes for emergencies: Code Blue for cardiac arrest, Code Red for fire, etc.

My first night on the job alone, however, a nurse phoned and asked me to page a "Code Brown, Room 214." I had no idea what that was. I called the page, then searched frantically through my emergency manual, but I couldn't find any description of it anywhere.



Stumped, I finally called the nurse back and asked her about it.

"Relax," laughed the nurse. "Code Brown is what we page when a patient is discharged and leaves behind an unfinished box of chocolates!"

To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles.



"I can't believe it," the teacher said during a parent-teacher conference with Mr. Jones. "Johnny has gone from one of the worst behaved kids to the best this term. What is your secret?"

"Flying lessons," Mr. Jones responded. "It works every time."

While on vacation, our family went to dine at a fancy restaurant. Our young girls were quietly playing under the table while we ate.

A nearby couple kept staring at us, which annoyed me because the kids were not being disruptive.

Finally the woman leaned over and said, "You should know that your girls are picking gum off the bottom of the table and eating it."

Every time history repeats itself the price goes up.

Things to know when learning to fly:

1. Takeoffs are optional. Landings are mandatory.
2. If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller.
3. Flying isn't dangerous. Crashing is dangerous.
4. It's always better to be down here wishing you were up there than up there wishing you were down here.
5. The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
6. The propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane used to keep the pilot cool. When it stops, you can actually watch the pilot start sweating.
7. When in doubt, hold on to your altitude. No one has ever collided with the sky.
8. A "good" landing is one from which you can walk away. A "great" landing is one after which they can use the plane again.
9. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.
10. You know you've landed with the wheels up if it takes full power to taxi to the ramp.
11. The probability of survival is inversely proportional to the angle of arrival. Large angle of arrival equals a small probability of survival -- and vice versa.
12. Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.
13. Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be another airplane going in the opposite direction.
14. Reliable sources also report that mountains have been known to hide out in clouds.
15. There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.
16. You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck.
17. Keep looking around. There's always something you've missed.
18. If all you can see out of the windscreen is ground that's going round and round and all you can hear is commotion coming from the passenger compartment, things are not at all as they should be.

Morning Breaks

March 2026

Volume 27 Number 13

"A sense of humor keeps life interesting..." –Marjorie Pay Hinckley

March 29, 2026



SKILLED MISSIONARIES AT WORK!

An eight-year-old boy was waiting in line at an ice cream stand and hanging on to the hand of his three-year-old cousin, who kept yelling impatiently, "I want vanilla!"

The stand was out of vanilla, but the older boy handled the situation with all the skill of a child psychologist. He bought two strawberry cones and handed one to his cousin, saying, "Here you are - pink vanilla!"

Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.

I was inspecting communications facilities in Alaska. Since I had little experience in flying in small planes, I was nervous when we approached a landing strip in a snow-covered area. The pilot descended to just a couple hundred feet, then gunned both engines, climbed, and circled back. While my heart pounded, the passenger beside me seemed calm.

"I wonder why he didn't land," I said.

"He was checking to see if the landing strip was plowed," the man said.

As we made a second approach, I glanced out the window. "It looks plowed to me," I commented.

"No," my seat mate said. "It hasn't been cleared for some time."

"How can you tell?" I asked.

"Because," the man informed me, "I'm the guy who drives the plow."

Buying gifts for men is not nearly as complicated as it is for women. Follow these rules and you should have no problems.

Rule #1: When in doubt - buy him a cordless drill. It does not matter if he already has one. I have a friend who owns 17 and he has yet to complain. As a man, you can never have too many cordless drills. No one knows why.

Rule #2: If you cannot afford a cordless drill, buy him anything with the word ratchet or socket in it. Men love saying those two words. "Hey George, can I borrow your ratchet?" "OK. By-the-way, are you through with my 3/8-inch socket yet?" Again, no one knows why.

Rule #3: If you are really, really broke, buy him anything for his car. A 99-cent ice scraper, a small bottle of deicer or something to hang from his rear view mirror. Men love gifts for their cars. No one knows why.

Rule #4: Do not buy men socks. Do not buy men ties. And never buy men bathrobes. I was told that if God had wanted men to wear bathrobes, he wouldn't have invented Jockey shorts.

Rule #5: You can buy men new remote controls to replace the ones they have worn out. If you have a lot of money buy your man a big-screen TV with the little picture in the corner. Watch him go wild as he flips, and flips, and flips.

Rule #7: Do not buy any man industrial-sized canisters of after shave or deodorant. I'm told they do not stink - they are earthy.

Rule #8: Buy men label makers. Almost as good as cordless drills. Within a couple of weeks there will be labels absolutely everywhere. "Socks. Shorts. Cups. Saucers. Door. Lock. Sink." You get the idea. No one knows why.

Rule #9: Never buy a man anything that says "some assembly required" on the box. It will ruin his day and he will always have parts left over.

Rule #10: Good places to shop for men include Northwest Iron Works, Parr Lumber, Home Depot, John Deere, Valley RV Center, and Les Schwab Tire. NAPA Auto Parts and Sear's Clearance Centers are also excellent men's stores. It doesn't matter if he doesn't know what it is. "From NAPA Auto, eh? Must be something I need. Hey! Isn't this a starter for a '68 Ford Fairlane? Wow! Thanks."

Rule #11: Men enjoy danger. That's why they never cook - but they will barbecue. Get him a monster barbecue with a 100-pound propane tank. Tell him the gas line leaks. "Oh the thrill! The challenge! Who wants a hamburger?"

Rule #12: Tickets to a football game are a smart gift. However, he will not appreciate tickets to "A Retrospective of 19th Century Quilts." Everyone knows why.

Rule #13: Men love chainsaws. Never, ever, buy a man you love a chainsaw. If you don't know why - please refer to Rule #8 and what happens when he gets a label-maker.

Rule #14: It's hard to beat a really good wheelbarrow or an aluminum extension ladder. Never buy a real man a step ladder. It must be an extension ladder. No one knows why.

Rule #15: Rope. Men love rope. It takes them back to our cowboy origins, or at least The Boy Scouts. Nothing says love like a hundred feet of 3/8" manilla rope.

A visitor once asked, "Does it ever rain in Arizona?"

A rancher quickly answered, "Yes, it does. Do you remember in the Bible where it rained for 40 days and 40 nights?"

The visitor replied, "Yes, I'm familiar with Noah's flood."

"Well," the rancher puffed up, "We got about two and a half inches of that."



MY FRIEND CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR BY BUYING AN ALL-TERRAIN 4 WHEELER. THIS IS A PICTURE OF HIM PLAYING WITH IT IN HIS BACK YARD.

I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING ME ONE.

LIFE IS FLEETING BY. ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN



**GETTING OLD IS EASY -
HAVING FUN AT IT IS THE REAL TRICK**