

## "Quips"

[One of the most widely read Shannon features is his "Quips" which appear daily in the *Washington Journal*. Over the years he has inserted thousands of these barbs, a few of which are included herewith. THE EDITOR.]

### POLITICS

If you would hold public office, prepare for criticism.

Better learn now to speak to everybody on the street, then when you run for political office people won't notice the change.

A good rule for legislators to remember: Don't tax all the people in order to benefit a few.

Death and taxes are both certain, but death doesn't get worse every time the legislature meets.

Wouldn't things be just dandy if we could have our 1951 income, our 1930 cost of production, and our 1910 income tax rate?

We ought to be kind and patient with our political leaders because they don't know what to do either.

We Americans should thank our lucky stars that we got our Constitution and the Bill of Rights when we did. Who could push a proposition like that through Congress now?

Political parties remain in power until they accumulate too many mistakes. Then comes the landslide.

Nothing can disturb one's belief in private enterprise like a government check.

Every day we see new evidence that it's easier to win a war than build a peace.



## BUSINESS

An efficiency expert is a fellow who is smart enough to tell you how to run your business and too smart to start one of his own.

Yep, we're pretty sharp financially. We know exactly how a millionaire should spend his money, and we never had a million in our life.

The man who retired ten years ago to live on his income is going back to work to make more income.

No nation has ever been taxed into prosperity. But a lot of our leaders refuse to be discouraged.

A dollar may have gone further in pre-war days but it didn't go so fast.

Lots of men who don't know a Hampshire from an Angus think they could make a big success on a farm.

## CHILDREN

The symbol of America's strength: A bunch of kids trudging to school with books under their arms.

You can expect your grown-up friends to speak to you on the street. But when a small boy or girl does it, you can count it one of life's finest compliments.

Trouble is that most parents now look upon the automobile as a necessity and children as a luxury.

In former times, when little Junior was naughty, the parents warmed his little britches and sent him to bed. Now they have him psychoanalyzed.

The average boy will never know how much he vexes his parents until he grows up and has a boy who vexes him.

## SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

It's a great blessing to be poor. Trouble is, people don't discover this until they become rich.

You can't standardize generosity: We are urged to give until it hurts, but some people are more easily hurt than others.



Another thing that's wrong with this country, too many are looking for positions instead of jobs.

A high school education doesn't hurt you if you are willing to learn something afterwards.

The man who has patches on the seat of his pants seldom has ulcers of the stomach.

Every American wants freedom and liberty. But too often he is thinking only of *his* freedom and *his* liberty.

The American system is all washed up, you say? All right, just where would you like to locate?

Most opportunities come dressed in work clothing.

We Americans have more time-saving devices and less time than any other people in the world.

The trouble with the average American is that he expects a profit on every business venture, and is ready to raise Ned if he has to take a loss.

If you stopped to answer everybody who criticizes you, there would be little time left for constructive activity.

It's funny that the fellow who doesn't need friends usually has lots of them.

#### CHURCH — RELIGION

Next to the pulpit and the choir loft, the most important thing in a modern church is the kitchen.

A man's value to his community may not always be measured by the number of people who attend his funeral, but it's a clue.

When we see a car Sunday morning with bamboo poles at the side, you may be reasonably sure the occupants are not going to church.

#### THE CHANGING SCENE

Look closely at the steam locomotive. Very soon now you may have to go to a museum to see one.

Civilization is a great idea. We ought to try it sometime.



You can learn a lot through your own experience, but the smart ones get it second hand.

Progress seems to be a matter of swapping our old troubles for new and bigger ones.

Our pioneer ancestors used to take the bumps in wagons that had no springs. Now we complain when we hit a little hole in the pavement.

### LAW

A law that cannot be enforced is worse than no law at all.

Strange as it may seem, a thing can be legal and still not be right.

In this country the murderer is always considered innocent until he has been proved insane.

### THE HUMAN SIDE

It's a good thing to have adversity occasionally. That's how you find out how many friends you have.

After all the prayers for daily bread, it is disheartening to know that the stuff is fattening.

Most of us can look over life's trail and see places where our judgment was worth considerably less than a plugged nickle.

If you want to find out how big a man is, watch how he takes a little criticism.

The young man enjoys life and liberty. But he must have an automobile in which to pursue his happiness.

What a cow is worth depends upon whether she was run over by a train or is being listed with the assessor.

### WOMEN

You may be a good, industrious, law-abiding citizen. But somewhere in your neighborhood there are women who feel sorry for your wife.

Elderly ladies yearn for a school girl complexion, while



elderly men long for a school boy digestion.

In some sections of the world the ladies still cover their faces in public. But they use veils for the purpose. In this country the girls smear it on.

A local man boasts that his wife is "an open book" to him. The reason may be that he can't shut her up.

Look into the bride's wardrobe. If she has more kitchen aprons than lounging robes you can wager the marriage will be a success.

It is no accident that most of our educators are women. All married men discover this.

Better think twice, young man. It's not easy to support the government and a wife on one income.

How terrible conditions must have been before the women got the vote and purified our politics.

About the only time a wife gives her husband undivided attention is when he talks in his sleep.

### PRESS

The power of the press has weakened, you say? Well, just try making a gift to an RFC official now and see how far you get.

In the newspaper business about the only way you know that people scan your product is when delivery is late or somebody makes a mistake.

Most stories, most sermons, most editorials would be much more interesting if shortened about 75 per cent.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Even the fellow who has a cold can tell you exactly how to cure it.

It isn't the seasoning that makes food taste so good. It's your appetite.

So long as the seed catalog is preferred reading, faith is not dead.

Whenever we see a Jennie Wren busy-bodying around



*PUBLIC SPEAKERS*

If you want to accomplish something in an organized way, don't throw the matter open for debate in a general meeting.

A banquet is described as a place where somebody talks about something he doesn't know anything about to people who don't want to hear him.

If you would appraise a speech, don't watch the speaker. Watch the audience.

*VACATIONS AND HOME*

Vacation is what you come home from wishing you'd spent the money for new drapes in the living room.

Every home should have at least one room to store things that have no use but are too "valuable" to throw away.

If your work is fun you don't need many vacations.