Over the Back Fence

**Amusing morsels and bits of wisdom…
overheard and read here and there.**

Taste Test

WHILE having dinner with friends, we were discussing getting our affairs in order for our upcoming retirements.

When the subject of insurance came up, one friend drawled, “Well, if I take out any more insurance on myself, I’ll have to start waiting for my wife to take a bite before I eat anything she cooks.”

—Lee Anna Fitzgerel, Salt Lake City, Utah

Sales Method with Some Teeth in It

IN THE 1960s, my little brother and I were always scheming to make a quick buck.

The tooth fairy was paying 15¢ to 35¢ a tooth if found under our pillows. One day, we discovered our baby teeth inside Mom’s jewelry box.

Voila! We were in business. We kept turning the teeth in over and over again. Mom probably bent over in laughter when it started happening. She even asked, “Are you both sharks? You have so many teeth!”

—Daniel Wessel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Numbers Game

WITH NO lottery winner for several drawings, the employees of the shop where I played my lottery numbers were too busy to leave their machines one day. They had not updated the previous day’s window-posted lottery prize of $30 million.

However, a store across the street had the correct amount shown.

My grandson teased me, saying, “I don’t think that you should buy your tickets here. The prize across the street is $50 million.”

I laughed, but 10 people within earshot left the line and purchased their tickets across the street.

—Jackie Clements-Marenda, Staten Island, New York

Grave Undertakings

CHECK OUT these items under the column “Grave Subjects” from a 1933 issue of The American Ironsmith magazine shared by Carol Swart of Cedar Lake, Minnesota.

“Here lies the body of Johnny Sap; he drove a car with a gal in his lap.”

“Eliza, sorrowing, rears this marble slab, to her dear John, who died from eating crab.”

“A Missouri woman, a devout Christian, married a man who did not believe in the hereafter. All her efforts to convert him were of no avail. He happened to die first, and she got even with him by having inscribed on his headstone the simple but eloquent words, ‘Now, he knows.’”

Adding Insult to Injury

A MAN was driving his old, beat-up Model T Ford past a farm when a rooster ran out in front of him and was killed.

Feeling bad about what had happened, the man went to the farmhouse and knocked on the door. When the farmer’s wife came to the door, the driver offered to pay for the rooster.

Looking out at the man’s old Ford, the farmer’s wife said, “Aw, just forget it. If that rooster couldn’t outrun that thing, he couldn’t catch a hen anyway.”

—Harrison Miles, Coarsegold, California