

Cartoon Viewpoint of the Week

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Cigarette Smoker's Golden Anniversary

JOHN J. SYNON

When I was six years of age, I used to hide away, crawl under our porch steps, to smoke cigarettes.

And I have been smoking them ever since; this is my golden anniversary. Moreover, the Good Lord willing, I shall go on smoking them another 50 years.

Just cantankerous, I guess.

At six, seven, and eight, along about there, I was told smoking would stunt my growth; I'm six-foot-four. Then, when I got to playing baseball, I was told smoking would cut my wind, whatever that meant. I didn't believe that either though I did quit — during the season — because I had pledged my word I would.

But I was soon back at it, when the summer closed, when I put my spikes away. And as anyone who has heard one of my intemperate orations can attest, incessant smoking of cig-

arettes has had no appreciably adverse effect on my lung power.

Now that I am grown old and gray — aye — they tell me cigarettes will give me lung cancer.

Perhaps. But you may bet I will go on smoking them. I have

never yet stopped doing anything I wanted to do because I was told it was "bad" for me.

True, I stopped drinking booze 25 years ago. But it was because drinking booze — as I drank booze — was wrong. I didn't need anybody to tell me that. The effects — homelessness — spoke with eloquence enough. So, I quit. But not because of the bluenoses and their waggling fingers. The wonder is that, with all their hissing good intentions, I did quit.

What of smoking? Beyond discoloring my tushes, I can detect no ill effects from the mountains of cigarettes I have smok-

ed, do smoke; 50 a day.

True, my left big toe went numb, some time back, and that caused concern, got me to thinking. And a good thing, too; I changed shoe size, as a result of cogitation, and all came right with me underpinnings.

And riddle me this: Where is all this anti-smoking smoke coming from, and why? Who or what is inspiring attack on the industry that is of such prime economic importance to so many Southern people? Eh? The package of cigarettes beside me carries this notice: "Caution: Cigarette Smoking May Be Hazardous To Your Health."

Yes, sir. And so may crossing the street be hazardous to my health. Take it another way: There is a big, fat passel of booze bottles yonder in the cabinet, set there for visiting fools. There is no such "caution" notice on any of them.

Why isn't there? Rather, why are cigarettes singled out as being hazardous? Why not belching factory chimneys; why don't smoking chimneys have a label plastered on them? Why not woman as hazards, if you want to get down to cases.

You say the answer is rate of incidence among smokers vs. incidence rate of non-smokers?

And I say tommyrot.

Perhaps you didn't see the results of the recent twins study. If not let me tell you about it: There was no evidence to indicate that the twin who smoked was any more liable to lung cancer than the twin who did no smoke.

Cigarettes: Pish and tush. It's the booze and the women, boy, who should be labeled. Them and the folks who run around telling their betters what they should and should not do.

All my butts to them.

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