

ALPHABET SOUP:



A-Pun My Soul

By GYLES BRANDRETH

I'm in a punny mood today, which is why I want you to know that you can always tell a baby from Alabama by its Southern drool.

What's more, I'd like you to meet my cousin from Miami.. If you think his jacket is florid, you should see his wife's — it's even Florida!

And, have you heard the latest news?

Following a major earthquake in California, a group of citizens set up the San Andreas Fund, which just goes to prove what they say about some Californians being generous to a fault.

Everyone knows that Hollywood's eternal triangles usually end up as wreck-tangles, but not everyone knows that the world's premier punster is an English writer named Alan F.G. Lewis. If you enjoy puns as much as I do, here are some Lewis gems to savor:

A Puritan is a man who noes what he likes.

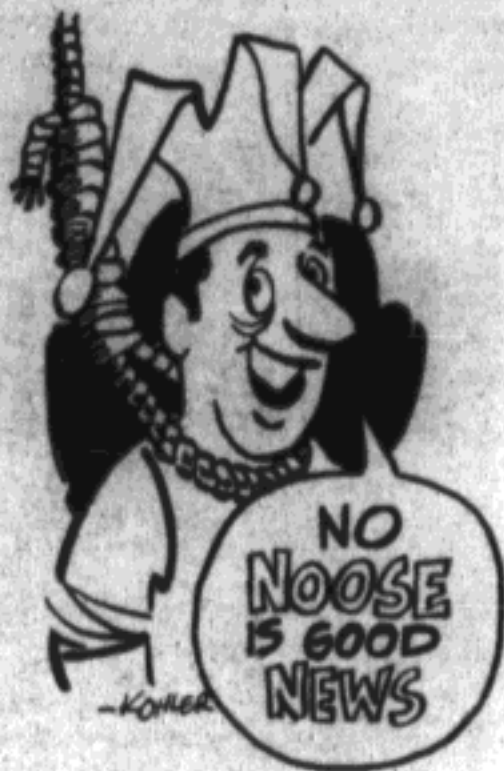
Dieter's motto: here today, gaunt tomorrow.

The guru refused to let his dentist freeze his jaw because he wanted to transcend dental medication.

When I'm stoned I get a little boulder.

"You're always telling lice ant you mite bee found out," he ticked her off.

The hard part of being broke



is watching the rest of the world go buy.

With games like Scrabble you won't get board, but the same's not true of Monotony.

Chalet or shanty? It's a decision we should dwell on.

Banging together brass plates in the orchestra isn't as cymbal as it looks.

Atrophy is a reward for long political service.

I've put my money into a new girlie magazine so I can take accrued interest.

A pessimist is a person who looks at the world through morose-colored glasses.

Only a fool would milk his

company of expenses when none have been in curd.

One's man's Mede is another man's Persian.

Pity the poor man who has a big load of debt and doesn't know how to budge it.

The old Christmas spirit is like artificial holly: dead and berried.

A-pun my soul, it can be a dangerous business, this punning.

Witness the true story of the medieval court jester who was an inveterate punster and punned knight and day until his master, the monarch — an ace of a king and quite a card by all accounts — was driven beyond reason and ordered the fool to be carried away to the gallows, there to be strung up.

No sooner had the jester been dragged from the royal presence than the king began to reflect on the problems of acquiring a replacement, and it didn't take long to have him sending a pardon speeding after the condemned jester.

The messenger carrying the pardon reached the gallows just in time to save the victim, who was already standing with the rope around his neck. The pardon proclaimed the jester's freedom on condition that he never crack another pun in his life. But old habits die hard, and without thinking, the jester promptly said:

"No noose is good news."
And they hanged him!