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Elucidations & Elaborations

I am so happy that 2013 is here. Not because I think it will be different from 2012, but just because last year is over. No more Halloween, Thanksgiving, or Christmas ads or decorations for at least 6 months. I am sure something will begin to appear about July or August.

Also, if we are lucky, we may have an entire year without a long, drawn out, divisive presidential election. No election ads will be just as exciting as no holiday advertisements for awhile.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope 2013 is your best year ever!

Brain Teaser

Rearrange the following letters to form two different eight-letter words. C E L N O O S S

See page 2 for the answer.

Violence in America

Whether this is the proper forum for this topic remains to be seen. I'm speaking here as a person who grew up with guns and hunting. I'm speaking as a veteran who spent a year in Vietnam during that war. I'm also speaking as a parent, grandparent, a former teacher, and a responsible citizen.

Why are so many people so paranoid about the conversation about sensible gun laws? No one has ever suggested that we do away with all guns, even though that might not be a bad idea. Can't we even have a logical, reasonable conversation about the topic?

As a former teacher, I doubt that putting guns or armed guards in schools is a logical solution. After all, it hasn't worked in the past. To carry it a step further, in addition to armed guards in schools, why not at movie theaters. Twelve were killed in one in Aurora, CO? How about houses of worship where a gunman killed 6 in Wisconsin? Maybe at every McDonalds where 21 were killed in San Ysidro, CA? How about at every IHOP where 4 were killed in Carson City, NV.

Here's more. Gunman kills 8 at a hair and nail salon in Seal Beach, CA. Eight were killed in a nursing home in North Carolina. Do we place armed guards in all post offices? In Oklahoma, 14 were killed in a post office in 1986. Four were killed in a Michigan post office in 1991. Six were killed in a CA postal processing center in 2006.

It's time to be rational and have a discussion about the kinds of guns we sell and to whom.

Chicken Scaloppini à la Jan

This is a modification of an old Betty Crocker Veal Scaloppine recipe.

2 boneless skinless chicken breasts sliced horizontally to make 4 pieces
1 cup all-purpose flour
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 can (3 ounces) sliced mushrooms
1/2 cup dry Marsala
1 cup beef broth
2 tablespoons butter

Pound chicken to 1/4 inch thickness. Season with salt and pepper; coat with flour.

Melt 2 tablespoons butter with the oil in a large skillet. Brown the chicken 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Remove from the skillet and keep warm.

Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the fat from the skillet. Add mushrooms, wine, and 1/2 cup of the beef broth to the fat in the skillet. Heat to boiling and cook 1 to 2 minutes, scraping the bottom with a spatula or spoon to remove browned particles. Return chicken to skillet, heat to boiling, then cover, reduce heat to simmer and cook for about 20 minutes, basting chicken with liquid a couple of times.

Remove chicken to a platter. Add remaining broth to skillet and bring to a boil. Boil and stir until reduced to syrup consistency. Stir in 2 tablespoons butter until melted. Pour over chicken on platter.

Through A Glass of Gin

My fellow gin drinkers may be interested in "The Book of Gin" by Richard Barnett. In the book he traces the history of gin which was once believed to prevent plague, ease the pains of childbirth and treat a lack of courage.

Here are a few interesting tidbits from the book:

- ❖ The first "proto-gin" infused with juniper was made in an Italian monastery hospital in the 11th century.
- ❖ In Prohibition-era America, gin was a favorite of bootleggers because its flavor could be faked fairly easily. Gin in its most basic form is neutral spirit flavored with juniper, and bootleggers quickly found that they could make a passable gin with industrial alcohol and juniper oil or turpentine.
- ❖ The modern gin revival began in 1988 with the launch of Bombay Sapphire. It was the first new premium gin for decades.
- ❖ In the last decade craft distilling has become hip, with dozens of small companies across Europe and the U.S. producing their own distinctive and delicious gins.

So, thanks to the gin renaissance, this is the best time in the last 500 years to be drinking gin! If you like gin, try the [Reeves Martini](#). It's my favorite.

Until next time remember: *I have no plans to be careful what I wish for.*

If you know someone who might enjoy this newsletter, please pass it along. Send ideas, comments, and questions to Glen@Glen's Place.

Answer to brain teaser: consoles, coolness

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