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From where I sit
by Joe Marsh

A Tonic For The Missus

The missus came marching in with a new hat yesterday. She was as happy as a circus poster.

I've learned one thing about the hats she buys. A hat is a tonic to her. If she's feeling blue, nothing gives her a lift like a new hat. Now, I could trade in my old grey fedora without raising my blood pressure a notch. But I'll admit that more than once I've bought a new briar pipe I didn't need—just because life was getting a little bit monotonous.

With Buck Howell it's something else again. When Buck is feeling low, he gets over it by blowing on a broken-down clarinet he hasn't mastered in twenty years.

From where I sit, different people are *always* going to respond to different things in different ways. So let's keep a friendly understanding of what other folks get out of a new hat, an old clarinet, a chocolate soda or a temperate glass of sparkling beer or ale now and then.

Joe Marsh

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