

## SUPPORT

Been having trouble with left wrist since trying to tug a rented snake out of our plugged sewer line last August. Finally had it checked & bone specialist told me, pointing to an x-ray, that I had bone spurs, arthritis & one short bone broken when I was 15. So I just live with it? I asked. He handed me a velcro laced brace & said either that or we fuse the bones. I slip on brace when I shovel snow, do pushups or fire heavy loads in my Bowen Redhawk 45. Gets me by.

## COWBOY BOOTS

When I was little, five, six, seven, I used to slip into a pair of E.W.'s cowboy boots (when visiting) & stomp around feeling very important. My grandfather had a horse ranch & a large cattle ranch in Ash Valley. Even tho he was five foot four, I have always looked up to him & today, when I wear my cowboy boots, I feel special, more masculine, less vulnerable to nagging self doubts.

## CHILD PROOF

After gassing up Jeep stop at liquor store for cigars. I ask proprietor if he's got matches & he says yes & hands me a throw-away lighter. Thanks I said but spoke too soon. This is a child-proof little devil which rudely humiliated me for 15 minutes.

## OMEN

For an instant he saw his wife (who's 45) as her mother. He rushed to a mirror & saw himself as he really is. Setting his jaw he promised again to change direction of his misspent life.

## NOT SO OLD

Waiting for 6000-mile service, check out new four-wheel drive trucks. Red ones, blue ones, white ones, all beautiful. I picture myself in red one with oversized mag wheels & all-terrain tires. A genuine image booster. Then I scan sticker & decide I'll do next best thing. Get new seat covers for my not so old Chevy pickup.