



JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Epidemiology
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
415 N. Washington Street, 2nd Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21231

14 February 2022

Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Down homisms

Every place has its dialect and mannerisms. You have to listen and watch to pick them up.

The language in Sleepy Eye is largely depleted of superlatives like wonderful, outstanding, and terrific. Back there people are suspicious of people who talk like Texas used car sales people.

Waving is subdued. You know straight away if someone waves like they just got off the Queen Mary that they are not from around Sleepy Eye. Waving there is a nod of the head or a simple hand gesture.

I know I am back home when farmers in pickups on country roads wave by lifting an index finger from the steering wheel as they pass. Or both index fingers if they know you!

No doubt you have been exposed to my dialect in postings over the years.

- OK..... Good
- Not too bad..... OK
- Alright..... OK
- Shit creek A place you don't want to be ("shit" creek; not "shits" creek in Sleepy Eye)
- Sucking canal water Not a good thing
- fershimmeled..... Yiddish term for confused
- getting schneider.... Cutting your losses; a term from Schafkopf meaning you still lose, but not as much
- Off sale..... Signs on beer joints where you can buy liquor by the bottle for consumption offsite
- Pop Soda; if it is "soda" for certain the person is not from around there
- A little lunch..... Forget "little"; it will be more than you can eat
- Supper..... The evening meal, as in Leonardo da Vinci "Last Supper" painting
- "Dinner" as the evening meal is a city slicker term; on the farm there is breakfast, dinner (noon),
- and supper
- Bars..... Any confectionary treat sliced and served in the form of bars; a necessity with a "little lunch"
- Petered out..... Exhausted
- Yah..... Generic reply (overdone in the movie "Fargo")
- You know..... Ya
- Colder than Toby's ass..... Bone chilling cold!
- Out gee fucked..... Screwed