

*The Funniest People in Families,*

*Volume 5:*

*250 Anecdotes*

**David Bruce**

**Copyright 2008 by Bruce D. Bruce**

**\*\*\***

**This is a short, quick, and easy read.**

**Anecdotes are usually short humorous stories. Sometimes they are thought-provoking or informative, not amusing.**

**\*\*\***

**Educate Yourself**

**Read Like A Wolf Eats**

**Be Excellent to Each Other**

**Books Then, Books Now, Books Forever**

**\*\*\***

**Do you know a language other than English? If you do, I give you permission to translate this book, copyright your translation, publish or self-publish it, and keep all the royalties for yourself. (Do give me credit, of course, for the original book.)**

**Dedicated to Carl Eugene Bruce and Josephine Saturday Bruce**

**My father, Carl Eugene Bruce, died on 24 October 2013. He used to work for Ohio Power, and at one time, his job was to shut off the electricity of people who had not paid their bills. He sometimes would find a home with an impoverished mother and some children. Instead of shutting off their electricity, he would tell the mother that she needed to pay her bill or soon her electricity would be shut off. He would write on a form that no one was home when he stopped by because if no one was home he did not have to shut off their electricity.**

**The best good deed that anyone ever did for my father occurred after a storm that knocked down many power lines. He and other linemen worked long hours and got wet and cold. Their feet were freezing because water got into their boots and soaked their socks. Fortunately, a kind woman gave my father and the other linemen dry socks to wear.**

**My mother, Josephine Saturday Bruce, died on 14 June 2003. She used to work at a store that sold clothing. One day, an impoverished mother with a baby clothed in rags walked into the store and started shoplifting in an interesting way: The mother took the rags off her baby and dressed the infant in new clothing. My mother knew that this mother could not afford to buy the clothing, but she helped the mother dress her baby and then she watched as the mother walked out of the store without paying.**

**My mother and my father both died at 7:40 p.m.**



## Chapter 1: From Activism to Christmas

### Activism

- Wendy Roby recommends that people engage in random acts of feminism. For example, if “lads’ mags,” which feature photos of nude women, offend you, you can simply go to the stores that sell this kind of “reading” material and put copies of *Good Housekeeping* in front of these magazines to obscure their covers. A person who goes by the name Charlie Grrl recommends “subvertising” the lads’ mags by adding Post-it notes to the covers. For example, the Post-it notes could say, “Despite my come-hither expression, I wouldn’t shag a *Nuts* reader for a million pounds” or “I am somebody’s sister.” Another idea: Some prostitutes use calling cards as advertising. Why not make up some of your own and post them where prostitutes post theirs? For example: “Too sad and ugly for a real girlfriend? Call me!” The phone number listed could be for a very expensive psychic hotline. One woman once visited a toy store with her daughters, where they saw a pink castle with a blonde princess in the highest turret. The woman took out a blank card, wrote a message on it, and attached it to the highest turret. The message was this: “Please let me out. I gotta get to work!”<sup>1</sup>

- In 1975, an event known as the Invasion of the Pines started. Lots of drag queens vacationed on Fire Island, and at the town known as the Pines, a restaurant refused service to a member of the drag community. On the July Fourth weekend, several drag queens and drag kings were bored, and someone said, “Let’s go to the Pines — and let’s show them what drag is all about.” Nine people dressed in drag — the men in dresses, and the women in leather — and they boarded a water taxi to the Pines. Drag queen Panzi was worried about the reception they would get, but she need not have worried. They attracted a lot of attention, but they were quickly served. After a few drinks, they went back to Fire Island. It became an annual event and now hundreds of drag queens participate. So why is Panzi a drag queen? She says that it is “fun. I just love it. It’s part of me.”<sup>2</sup>

- In November of 2003, a couple of high school students engaged in a nonconformist act. Stephanie Haaser jumped onto a table in the cafeteria and yelled “End homophobia now!” — then she kissed her classmate Katherine Pecore. Both students were suspended for two days, although they had been inspired by an English class in which one assignment was to perform a nonconformist act in the tradition of American Transcendentalists Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Apparently, their school — River Hill High School in Clarksville, Maryland — believes in nonconformity, as long as it is not too nonconformist, and in free speech, as long as it is not too free.<sup>3</sup>

### Animals

- Once, a bear nearly killed Ruth Paulsen, the wife of popular children’s author Gary Paulsen. She had been weeding the garden when the bear approached her and prepared to attack, although she did the right things — she backed away from the bear, and she avoided eye contact with it. Fortunately, a tiny dog named Quincy saw what was happening, came running, jumped on the bear’s chest, bit down, and hung on. Mrs. Paulsen then did what she shouldn’t have — she ran toward the bear, grabbed Quincy, and ran away. Mr. Paulsen says that in doing this his wife used “all the good luck from the rest of her life,” for the bear turned around and went away.<sup>4</sup>

- Diane Sherman, an occupational therapist in Monterey, California, uses parrots in her work with children who have cerebral palsy. Her parrot is named Macumi, and he says “Hi!” to everyone he sees, as well as saying such other phrases as “What’s you doing?” and “How you doing?” One boy with cerebral palsy didn’t speak at all until Macumi said “Hi!” to him. Then the boy turned to Macumi and said “Hi!” right back. After that, the boy began to speak more and more until he became a chatterbox.<sup>5</sup>

- When country comedian Jerry Clower was growing up, his family owned a pit bulldog named Mike. Mike was an intelligent dog, and whenever Jerry or any of his siblings left a tool lying in the field, Mike would lie by the tool and not come home. At suppertime, if Mike didn’t show up, Jerry’s mother would say, “Y’all left somethin’. Go back out there and get whatever tools you left.” They would go back out into the field, and sure enough, Mike would be lying by the tool.<sup>6</sup>

- Texas actor Marco Perella once performed in a children’s show featuring a dog named Wishbone. Since the dog is the star, the show is named after it. Mr. Perella once made a mistake on the scene: He started to pet the dog. Quickly, he learned that the major rule on the set was DON’T TOUCH THE DOG. Of course, there is a reason for the rule. So many people are around Wishbone all day that if everyone petted him he would soon have bald spots all over his body.<sup>7</sup>

- Throughout her career, Nikki Giovanni has dedicated her many books of poetry and essays to people she has known and admired. She dedicated *Spin a Soft Black Song* to Wendy, her female cairn terrier, so the dog wouldn’t feel left out.<sup>8</sup>

- When her father, Theodore Roosevelt, was President of the United States, Alice, his young daughter, ran around the White House with Emily Spinach, her pet snake, wrapped around her neck.<sup>9</sup>

## **Art**

- When H. Algeranoff joined Anna Pavlova’s dance troupe, he went on several world tours. On Mr. Algeranoff’s first tour, Jan Cieplinski introduced him to the World of Art. On every stop of the tour, no matter how small the town, Mr. Cieplinski would stop at the local art museum, where he often found something worthy of admiration. Mr. Algeranoff went along because he spoke English and could find out the directions to the museum. From Mr. Cieplinski, Mr. Algeranoff learned that the World of Art can be found everywhere, if one will only look for it.<sup>10</sup>

- French actor Franoise-Joseph Talma took his art seriously. Even when he was near death due to severe illness, he hoped to return to the stage. Mr. Talma had lost much weight, and his skin hung loosely on his body; however, when his friend Alexandre Dumas visited him, Mr. Talma touched the loose skin on his own cheeks and said, “What a truthful air this will give to the role of the aged Tiberius.”<sup>11</sup>

## **Authors**

- James Howe wrote his first book, *Bunnicula*, about a vampire bunny, just for fun. (What does a vampire bunny attack? Vegetables!) No wonder. When he was 10 years old, he was a founding member (with his two best friends) of a club called the Vampire Legion. As a professional writer, he gets to write at home, where his wife, Betsy Imershein, a professional

photographer, has an office next to his. Another member of the family with an “office,” which was really a playroom, was Zoe, their daughter (when she was very young). She used to frequently visit her parents’ offices, and they would frequently take breaks with Zoe so they could go outside, sit on the “reading rock,” and read stories out loud. (By the way, Betsy is James’ first editor. She will read the pages he has written, attach a paperclip to a page she wants to discuss, and then give her husband her opinion of and advice about what he has written. When he lifts a manuscript he has given her and notices that it is heavy (because of the weight of the paperclips), he knows that he is in for a lot of discussion — or, as he calls it, “trouble.”<sup>12</sup>

- Children’s book author Ann M. Martin, creator of the *Babysitters Club* series of books, loved books and libraries even when she was a child. In fact, she set up her own lending library in her bedroom for the children in her neighborhood. She lent her own books to other children — and she collected fines when the children returned overdue books!<sup>13</sup>

- When Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *Treasure Island*, he knew he was writing for children, so he didn’t put in any profanity, although some of his main characters were pirates. In addition, he didn’t put any women in the story — at the express wish of his young stepson, Lloyd.<sup>14</sup>

## **Baseball**

- Following a New York-Baltimore baseball game, Jerry Coleman interviewed two baseball wives on his show titled *The Yankee Wrap-up*. In particular, he asked about whether it was difficult having a family when the husband was on the road so much traveling with his team. One wife said, “When he’s away, I have to take charge of everything. I have to be pretty much the man in the family.” Mr. Coleman commented, “I suppose you do have to wear the pants in the family at that time.” The wife then added, “Yes, but when he comes home, I take them off.”<sup>15</sup>

- Jack Olsen, author of *Over the Fence is Out*, remembers playing baseball as a kid. In kids’ baseball when he was growing up long ago, if you owned the baseball (and usually there was only one baseball per group of kids back then), you were the pitcher. In one game, young Jack had given up 12 runs in one inning, so his catcher came out and told him, “I think you’re losing your stuff.” Young Jack asked, “Whose ball we using?” The catcher was forced to admit, “It’s yours.” Young Jack said, “Then I ain’t losing my stuff,” and he continued to pitch.<sup>16</sup>

- Some kids start out in sports very early. Seattle Mariner Alex Rodriguez was given his first baseball when he was only two years old. Alex’ older brother motivated him to become a better ballplayer. When playing together, his older brother would let Alex get ahead, but at the end of the game he would pull ahead and win. Losing made young Alex cry and want to be a better ballplayer — he also cried when he had to stop playing baseball for the day.<sup>17</sup>

- *Peanuts* cartoonist Charles M. Schultz remembers a neighborhood baseball game that his team lost by a score of 40-0. That game became the inspiration for a game that Charlie Brown’s team lost by a score of 600-0.<sup>18</sup>

## **Birth**

- When gymnast Nadia Comaneci was five, Adrian, her brother, was born, giving her father both a tomboy and a real son. When her mother brought Adrian home from the hospital after

his birth, he was crying. However, when Nadia held him, he stopped crying. At first, Nadia believed that the stork had brought Adrian to the door of their home, but her parents told her that the stork had Adrian by way of the chimney — the soot in the chimney had made Adrian's skin a little darker than Nadia's.<sup>19</sup>

- A mother called her son at 3 in the morning. Worried, he asked why she was calling. His mother replied, "I just wanted to wish you a happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday." Relieved, but annoyed, he replied, "You didn't have to call at 3 a.m. just to wish me a happy birthday." His mother replied, "Well, son, why not? Forty years ago, you made me get up at 3 a.m. to give birth to you."<sup>20</sup>

## Children

- Ballerina and dance teacher Felia Doubrovska started taking dance lessons as a result of being given a doll. The doll made her happy, her happiness made her dance, a dance instructor at the Imperial School saw her dancing, and he recommended to her mother that young Felia study ballet in the Imperial School. Lessons at the Imperial School meant staying away from home for much of the time, although the students would see their families on occasion. In addition, their families often sent them packages of candy, but these were taken by the adults of the school and given to the children one candy at a time. Young Felia and another young student once got into trouble when they broke into the place where the candy was stored and ate every piece. Dessert at the Imperial School often consisted of pastry, and the children would put a finger in their mouth and wait for the tray of pastries to arrive. When the tray was set on the table, each child would claim his or her favorite kind of pastry by putting a wet finger on it. (Felia preferred cherry or mocha pastry.)<sup>21</sup>

- Mem Fox, the Australian young people's author of *Possum Magic*, grew up in Southern Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) in Africa, along with her sisters, who were born after her. One sister, Jan, was always tired, and their mother worried that she was suffering from an African disease named bilharzias, a main symptom of which was drowsiness. (Her mother even got Jan a doctor.) However, the real reason that Jan was always tired was that she stayed up late at night reading books under her bed covers. (When Jan was 13 years old, her family visited their native Australia. Jan read *War and Peace* during the long plane trip from Africa to Australia — something that enraged Mem, who knew that Jan was clever but thought that she was being a showoff about it.)<sup>22</sup>

- When Olympic gold medalist Bart Conner was in kindergarten, he forgot to bring something for show and tell. No problem. When it was his turn to get in front of the class, he said, "I don't have a show-and-tell, but I can do a headstand." He then grabbed a sleeping mat and performed a headstand on it. The other kids in the class enjoyed this and started counting to see how long he could stand on his head. They counted to 10, then 20, then 100. Bart could have stayed up longer, but his teacher, Mrs. Miller, thought he had been on his head long enough, so she said, "Thank you, Bart, you can come down now — Bart, get down this minute!"<sup>23</sup>

- When Navajo girls have their first menstrual cycle, they go through a coming-of-age ceremony called a Kinaaldá ceremony. It has many parts, including baking a cake of cornmeal overnight in the earth, saying all-night prayers, and running a race toward the East. When the Kinaaldá ceremony is finished, the Navajo girl has become a woman and an adult. When Celinda McKelvey went through the Kinaaldá ceremony, she ran almost to a highway. Later,



she said about the people driving by, “They probably thought it was some kind of Indian track meet.”<sup>24</sup>

- Punk poet Patti Smith was the oldest of three children in her family, so she considered herself the boss of her brother and sister. She would order the other two to do chores such as cleaning by telling them, “OK, we’re going to play War, and I’m the sergeant. Todd, you do the bathroom; Linda, you do this; and I’ll go out. When you hear my footsteps, if you’re not done, you’ll be court-martialed!” At other times, she would say, “Let’s play Mean Father! You be the kids, and I’ll beat you to death if you don’t have the house clean!”<sup>25</sup>

- Scientist George Washington Carver was raised by Moses and Susan Carver, the white couple who had owned his mother before she was freed by the Union victory in the Civil War. When George was only one year old, the Ku Klux Klan kidnapped his mother and she was never seen again. People assumed that the KKK had murdered her. As a boy, George spent a lot of time outside investigating nature, and before he was allowed to enter the house, Mrs. Carver insisted that he look at the contents of his pockets and remove anything that was living.<sup>26</sup>

- Beth Joiner, a children’s dance teacher in Georgia, knows more about the goings-on of her students’ family lives than the students’ parents probably want her to know. For example, one young boy asked her, “Do you know what my sister and I do when my parents go in the bedroom and lock the door?” Miss Beth answered that she did not know, and the boy explained, “We throw the ball in the den — we’re not supposed to.” From this conversation, Miss Beth learned that parents and children can both do things that they don’t want the others to know.<sup>27</sup>

- The young daughter of one of controversial filmmaker John Waters’ friends shares his love of cheap horror movies, so he often takes her along to watch them. Once, a woman saw the girl and asked which movie she was going to see. The woman’s jaw then dropped when the little girl answered, “*The Bloody Pit of Horror*.” This is the same little girl who went to see *Superman* with Mr. Waters. Halfway through the movie, she asked, “You mean we’re going to sit through the *whole* thing?”<sup>28</sup>

- When Irène Curie, the daughter of Nobel Prize-winners Pierre and Marie, was very young, a family friend named Eugénie Feytis took her to a natural science museum, where she saw the tooth of a mastodon. Irène asked Eugénie, “Have you ever seen a mammoth?” Eugénie replied, “No. The beast lived a long time ago.” Irène thought for a moment, and since she wanted an eyewitness account, she said, “Very well. I shall ask GrandPé.” (“GrandPé” was her grandfather.)<sup>29</sup>

- When horror writer Stephen King was six years old, he wanted to listen to a radio program called *Dimension X*, but his mother wouldn’t let him. Therefore, Stephen crept out of bed, cracked open the door of his bedroom, put his ear to the crack, and listened to the night’s program — Ray Bradbury’s “Mars is Heaven.” The program terrified young Stephen, and he spent that night sleeping in the hall, so he could be near the light burning in the bathroom.<sup>30</sup>

- Theatrical guru Danny Newman has been a fierce defender of human rights, including his own, throughout his long career. He started early in defending these rights. When Danny was age five and in kindergarten, his teacher denied him his human right to go to the bathroom when he had to go. He stormed at her, “You don’t own this school! The Board of Education does!” Then he stormed out of kindergarten and went home.<sup>31</sup>

- Maurice and Anna Schwartz once adopted a little boy and a little girl, brother and sister, who were Holocaust survivors whom they found in a Belgium orphanage. At first, they were going to adopt only the little boy, but the little boy insisted that they also adopt his sister. Moved by his insistence, they also adopted his sister and treated both children lovingly.<sup>32</sup>
- When Whitbread Race sailor Dawn Riley was a kid, her family owned a boat they named the *Sieve* — the name was suitable because the boat leaked so much. Also when she was a kid, she went fishing occasionally. The first time she caught a fish, it was only two inches long, so her parents told her to put it back in the water so its parents wouldn't worry.<sup>33</sup>
- One Sunday, Texas preacher Edwin Porter was preaching when his three-year-old grandson grew tired. The grandson stood up on the pew and said in a loud voice, "Granddaddy, that will be about enough." Mr. Porter immediately said, "We will close the service by singing, 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'"<sup>34</sup>
- English upper-class boys used to be sent away from home at an early age to attend exclusive schools, where they were often quite brave. One boy, who was later Lord Antrim, bravely wrote his mother in his first letter from school: "Dear Mama, The boys in this school go about in twos. I go about in ones. Your loving Dulcie."<sup>35</sup>
- Some children fall in love quickly. When Balanchine ballerina Allegra Kent was very young, she ran in a race with some other children. She didn't win the race, but she ran quickly enough that a little boy said to her, "Hello, little fast runner." Ms. Kent writes in her autobiography, *Once a Dancer ...*, "Instantly, I fell in love."<sup>36</sup>
- When Alexandra Danilova was not yet a teenager, her aunt told her that they were going to the Caucasus for a vacation. Young Alexandra said, "But I can't go." When her aunt asked her why not, she replied, "Because I have absolutely nothing to wear." Her aunt laughed — and bought her 12 dresses.<sup>37</sup>
- Before the Presidential election of 1860, Abraham Lincoln was clean shaven. However, he received a letter from an 11-year-old girl named Grace Bedell. In it, she advised him that if he wanted to look better, he should grow a beard. Mr. Lincoln took Grace's advice.<sup>38</sup>
- In 1950, a school at Menston, England, held a mock election to teach children about voting. Nine-year-old Dale Smith won on a political platform demanding that his fellow students receive a weekly allowance and free ice cream — and that all teachers be hanged.<sup>39</sup>
- Benjamin Franklin joked that when he was born on January 17, 1706, he spent the entire day in church. His mother went to church service in the morning, then went home and gave birth to him, and he was taken to church that afternoon to be baptized.<sup>40</sup>
- When Laura, Ralph Nader's sister, was two years old, she squirmed out of a baby carriage undetected. When her mother found her shortly afterward, young Laura was trying to pet a harmless garden snake.<sup>41</sup>
- Pro basketball player Michael Jordan got his first basketball hoop when he was five years old — it was a trashcan. He pretended to be tall and dunked balls into the trashcan.<sup>42</sup>
- When Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*, was a small child, she used to sleep with a clothespin on her nose in hopes of making it look less Chinese and more American.<sup>43</sup>

## Christmas

- In 1900, the best-selling children's book was *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, but its author, L. Frank Baum, did not realize how well it was selling. He went to his publisher's house to collect some money to spend for Christmas. Hoping for \$100, he collected a check for all the royalties that he had made so far. He didn't look at the amount written on the check, but simply put the check in his pocket. When he got home, he gave the check to his wife, Maud, who was ironing one of his shirts. She looked at the amount — \$3,432.64 — and was so shocked that she let the iron burn a hole in his shirt.<sup>44</sup>
- Bess Furman of the *Washington Post* knew how to get a story even though Lou Hoover, wife of President Herbert Hoover, was leery of the press. Ms. Furman was very short, and to get an inside look at a 1930 Christmas Eve party hosted by Mrs. Hoover for several Girl Scouts, Ms. Furman wore a Girl Scout uniform and pretended to have been invited to the party.<sup>45</sup>
- At a Christmas pageant held at Phoenix, Arizona's St. Joan of Arc Church, a small boy playing the innkeeper had of course been instructed to tell Joseph and Mary that there was no room at the inn. He felt so bad about this that he adlibbed: "There's no room at the inn, but would you like to come in for a drink?"<sup>46</sup>
- Bob Bayer lives in Westchester, California, and he has a daughter who at three years old received a Barney Christmas special videotape that she watched over and over again. Finally, he said to her, "Honey, you shouldn't watch that tape anymore. Christmas is over." She replied, "No, Daddy. Christmas is coming."<sup>47</sup>
- At a Christmas party hosted by Anna Pavlova, one of her dancers — H. Algeranoff — decided to wear Japanese clothing and makeup. Unfortunately, the makeup he used to cover his eyebrows contained a dye, and for days afterward, Mr. Algeranoff had bright orange eyebrows.<sup>48</sup>
- As young girls, Amelia Earhart and Muriel, her sister, were tomboys. One Christmas, Amelia wrote her father a letter: "Dear Dad, Muriel and I would like footballs this year, please. We need them especially as we have plenty of baseballs and bats."<sup>49</sup>
- What is considered a traditional Christmas Eve dinner varies from household to household. In author Frank DeCaro's Italian family, the traditional Christmas Eve dinner always included at least seven different dishes made with fish.<sup>50</sup>
- One Christmas, Alexander Woolcott let his friends know that the present he wanted that year was the 12-volume *Oxford Dictionary*. Sure enough, at Christmas, twelve of his friends each presented him with Volume One of the dictionary.<sup>51</sup>

## Chapter 2: From Clothing to Fathers

### Clothing

- Peggy Fleming's career as a figure skater and TV announcer took her all over the world, separating her from her young son, Todd. So Todd wouldn't feel left out, and so he would feel as if a part of him were with her, Ms. Fleming took one of his shoes along on her trips. Todd's shoe has been photographed in such places as in front of the Eiffel Tower, on a street crowded with Bulgarians, and on a frozen canal in Russia. The shoe was even interviewed by ABC announcer Jim McKay at the Edmonton World Championships. During the interview, Mr. McKay said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, we have brought you many unforgettable moments over the years but truly nothing quite like this one. To my knowledge this is the first time that any commentator has had the opportunity to interview the shoe of Todd Jenkins, son of Olympic champion Peggy Fleming. How does it feel to be here today?" The shoe made no comment.<sup>52</sup>

- Even a member of the punk group the Sex Pistols can fall in love and clean up his act — at least for a while. When guitarist Sid Vicious fell in love, lead singer Johnny Rotten was amazed at how it changed him: "He even changed his underwear for the first time in two years." Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren didn't believe it: "Did you actually see him taking it off?" Mr. Rotten replied, "He didn't take it off. He had been wearing it too long for that. He had to shave it off."<sup>53</sup>

- Figure skater Christopher Bowman once performed in a costume consisting of a black velvet suit whose major features consisted of a white collar and plunging neckline. Reporters tried to find words sufficient to describe the features of the outfit, and *National* reporter Julie Vader said, "It's a shawl collar." When someone asked how she knew that, she explained, "I have a dress exactly like it."<sup>54</sup>

- Before her marriage, the name of children's book author Barbara Park was Barbara Lynne Tidswell. Her mother made many of Barbara's clothes, and she often monogrammed the clothing, too. Because BLT is an abbreviation for Bacon, Lettuce, and Tomato sandwiches, Barbara says that when she wore the monogrammed clothing, she felt "like a walking sandwich board."<sup>55</sup>

- Players in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League were true originals. Teams visiting Minneapolis to play the Millerettes sometimes washed their underwear, then hung it up to dry in the windows of the Sheraton Hotel, only to be scolded by the Sheraton management.<sup>56</sup>

- Peter Ustinov wore a toga in the movie *Spartacus*, a costume that he declared had significant disadvantages: "To handle a toga properly, you have to watch a woman very carefully and notice how she walks and sits down. This type of attention can be grievously misunderstood."<sup>57</sup>

### Dating

- Raybon Porter was the 14-year-old son of a strict preacher; he also liked girls. Although his father forbid him to have so many dates, young Raybon kept right on dating, accepting whatever punishment his father meted out to him. When his father asked why young Raybon

kept disobeying him, Raybon answered, “Well, Papa, I thought it over and decided that I’d rather take the punishment than miss seeing the girls.”<sup>58</sup>

- Nick Lachey of the pop group 98 Degrees is a romantic. When he was dating Jessica Simpson, she went on a tour and opened for Ricky Martin. At each of her stops, he faxed her one letter of the alphabet. When all of the letters were put together in order, they spelled, “Jess, you complete my soul.”<sup>59</sup>

- Lesbian comedian Judy Carter suggests that one way to solve the problem of figuring out how to meet other gay people is to out yourself; for example, you could say, “I’m checking out my gaydar. Are you gay?”<sup>60</sup>

## Death

- In a Cambridge, Massachusetts, cemetery is a funeral monument raised to TRUTH. Jonathan Mann (1821-1892) was a superintendent of the cemetery. He got into a disagreement about how some funds should be spent and took the matter to court, where he lost. Believing that TRUTH was dead, he had a funeral monument raised in her memory.<sup>61</sup>

- Wilson Mizner was capable of black humor. After getting dressed one morning, Mr. Mizner learned from his brother Addison that another brother, Lansing, had died. Mr. Mizner replied, “Why didn’t you tell me *before* I put on a red tie?”<sup>62</sup>

- On his deathbed, Heinrich Heine made a will that left everything to his wife, Mathilda — provided that she remarry. Why? Mr. Heine explained, “When Mathilda remarries, there will be at least one man who regrets my death.”<sup>63</sup>

## Easter

- During Easter service at the Hunter Community Church in Franklin, Ohio, the pastor and choir carried lighted candles in a procession down the aisle. A small boy in the congregation saw the lighted candles and started singing, “Happy birthday to you.”<sup>64</sup>

## Education

- Colleges tend to have official mottos. For example, Yale’s official motto is “*Lux et Veritas*,” which is Latin for “Light and Truth.” Ohio University’s official motto is “*Religio Doctrina Civilitas, Prae Omnibus Virtus*,” which is Latin for “Religion, Learning, Politics/Civility; Above All, Virtue.” Unfortunately, but funnily, colleges often tend to have unofficial mottos. For example, the unofficial motto of the University of Chicago is “Where Fun Goes to Die.” The unofficial motto of Grinnell College is “Where the Hell is Grinnell?” (It’s in Iowa.) The unofficial motto of Swarthmore College is “Guilt Without Sex.” And the unofficial motto of Reed College is “Communism, Atheism, Free Love.”<sup>65</sup>

- Many Navajo live on the Navajo Reservation, but many Navajo live away from it. Once, when Monty Roessel was a young boy returning home from school, he heard his mother calling him to sit beside her as she weaved and sang. He asked her why she weaved, and she replied that while she was weaving, she was home in Navajoland. She explained, “This is who we are. The loom connects me with the sacred mountains, and the song connects me with my mother.” Later, Monty’s 10-year-old daughter, Jaclyn, asked her grandmother to teach her to

weave. When Jaclyn was asked why she wanted to weave, she replied, “That is what we do; that is who we are.”<sup>66</sup>

- Actor Eli Wallach was born and raised in Brooklyn, but he attended the University of Texas at Austin because out-of-state tuition was only \$30 for his first year. His professors often called on him in class. Why? Mr. Wallach explains, “Because they wanted to hear my Brooklyn accent.” Mr. Wallach became interested in Texas politics when he was at Austin. The governor at the time of his first year at the college was a woman, Ma Ferguson, whose husband had been Texas governor but had been impeached. Ma Ferguson ran for governor and was elected, and her husband kept on running the state just like he had before being impeached.<sup>67</sup>

- Valentina Pereyaslavec was a very tough teacher at New York’s Ballet Theater School. Whenever anyone talked in class, she would draw herself up, throw her head back, narrow her eyes, and say, “I not like talk in class.” Immediately, the culprits would stop talking. During one practice, she watched three dance students in the first row. One dance student was ahead of the beat. Another dance student was behind the beat. The final dance student was on the beat. She looked at the floor, then clapped her hands sharply, and announced, “Class finished!”<sup>68</sup>

- Long ago, college students faced a curfew. They had to be in their dorm by a certain time, when the doors would be locked. A female student at Smith College arrived late one night, found herself locked out, but discovered an open window, which she attempted to climb through. Suddenly, she felt a hand on her posterior, giving her a much-needed boost through the open window. Turning around to see her benefactor, she met the eyes of William Allan Neilson, President of Smith College from 1917 to 1939, who tipped his hat to her.<sup>69</sup>

- Comedian Lewis Black’s mother was a substitute teacher in city classrooms, some of them very tough. Usually, a substitute teacher would have a rough time of it, but not Mrs. Black because she had a very sharp tongue and a mastery of sarcasm. One tough kid asked her why he had to learn the subject she was teaching, and she replied, “Because when you are pumping my gas at the Sears Station, where you have been for 10 years because you didn’t get your diploma, I don’t want to waste any breath saying ‘I told you so.’”<sup>70</sup>

- Some lessons need to be learned at exactly the right time. For example, Ralph Nader’s mother used to teach her children about health when they were ill. She told Ralph, “When you were sick, I gave you your lessons on health. There was no more receptive time than when you were in the middle of chicken pox, mumps, whooping cough, and measles.” Of course, the lessons she taught were about such things as eating the right foods and getting enough exercise and sleep.<sup>71</sup>

- Kosen was a master calligrapher, but he had a student who was very critical of his work. While Kosen drew the words “The First Principle” for a temple, his student watched him and criticized strongly every calligraphic attempt — 84 in all — Kosen made. Finally, the student went outside. Freed from the student’s criticism, Kosen drew the words “The First Principle.” When the student came back, he saw his master’s writing, and he pronounced the calligraphy a masterpiece.<sup>72</sup>

- Athletes sign lots of autographs, and some athletes’ signatures are written more carefully — and legibly — than other athletes’ signatures. Dodger pitcher Carl Erskine’s signature was especially legible because his teachers had taught him that he should take pride in his name.

One fan remarked on the legibility of his signature, and Mr. Erskine told her that he had learned to do that from his teachers. Beaming, the fan replied, “I’m a teacher.”<sup>73</sup>

- John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, grew up in a strictly religious family that allowed him to read only one book: the Bible. However, he resisted this rule and borrowed books from neighbors because he wanted to acquire an education. After much arguing with his father, he was finally allowed to read other books — as long as he woke up early and read them before dawn. Frequently, young John woke up at 1 a.m. to begin reading.<sup>74</sup>

- One day the governor of Kyoto wanted to see the Zen teacher Keichu, so he gave Keichu’s attendant his card, which read, “Kitagaki, governor of Kyoto.” The attendant took the card to Keichu, who looked at it, then said, “Tell him to get lost.” When the attendant returned with the card and the message, Kitagaki thought a moment, then scratched “governor of Kyoto” off the card and sent it back to Keichu, who welcomed him.<sup>75</sup>

- When Sir Winston Churchill was a boy at a boarding school he didn’t like, the headmaster sent for him and told him, “Churchill, I have grave reason to be displeased with you.” The future Sir Winston replied, “And I, sir, have grave reason to be displeased with you.” And when an upperclassman caned him, the nine-year-old future Prime Minister told the upperclassman, “I shall be a greater man than you.”<sup>76</sup>

- As a female student in medical school in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when that was unusual, Maria Montessori showed unusual dedication. When a snowstorm battered Rome, Ms. Montessori still made it to class, even though the bottom of her dress was wet from the deep snows. That day, she was the only student to show up for the class. The professor did not cancel the class, but instead lectured to her alone.<sup>77</sup>

- L. Frank Baum, author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, had a mischievous son named Frank, Jr., who once threw a cat out of a second-story window — fortunately, the cat was unharmed. This callous action infuriated Frank, Jr.’s mother, Maud, who picked him up and held him out the window, threatening to drop him. His screams attracted the neighbors, but he learned not to torture the cat.<sup>78</sup>

- Marie Plantz, aka Mrs. Vince Lombardi, was a football fan even before meeting her future husband. At a high school football game, a nun complained that Marie was standing too close to the football field. Marie replied, “Frankly, Sister, if you knew anything about football, you’d know that you can’t watch it from the stands.”<sup>79</sup>

- When Marguerite Johnson was a young girl, a woman named Mrs. Bertha Flowers took her to the library and told her to read all the books from A to Z. Young Marguerite did. Later, she changed her name to Maya Angelou and became the acclaimed author of the autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.<sup>80</sup>

- Every Navajo blanket has an opening in its border. Sometimes, the border will be dark, with one piece of white-colored yarn reaching to the edge of the blanket. This is done so that the weaver will keep her mind open and be able to learn more. When one’s mind is closed, one is unable to learn.<sup>81</sup>

- The lectures of Professor Harold Dwight Lasswell were notoriously difficult to understand. Once, Professor Lasswell walked into his classroom at the beginning of a term and was

surprised at the large number of students waiting for him to start class. He muttered, “We shall reduce the number forthwith.”<sup>82</sup>

- Ellen Goodman’s husband was chosen to serve as godfather to Laura, the daughter of some friends of theirs, although he was not noted for his church attendance. At the christening of the child, he joked in a stage whisper to Laura that he would immediately start her training as a druid.<sup>83</sup>

- When he was in vaudeville, Groucho Marx and his wife and child stayed in very small hotel rooms. Because he was determined to educate himself, Groucho stayed up late reading in the bathroom, sitting for hours perched on the edge of the bathtub or on the toilet seat.<sup>84</sup>

- Alexandra Danilova attended the Mariinsky School in St. Petersburg. All of the young girls studying dance there had favorites among the older dancers, and if someone’s favorite dancer made a mistake, the other girls would point to that someone and tell her, “*Your* ballerina did that!”<sup>85</sup>

- Education was very important to Marie Curie, two-time winner of the Nobel Prize. Whenever she wrote Irène, her young daughter, her letters ended with algebra problems for Irène to solve. In 1935, Irène won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.<sup>86</sup>

- As a child, punk poet Patti Smith was teased because she was so skinny. In gym class, whenever she and the other students were weighed, she would put heavy locks in her pockets so she would weigh more.<sup>87</sup>

- When Peter Ustinov was a small boy, his parents received a school report that stated, “This boy shows great originality, which must be curbed at all costs.”<sup>88</sup>

## Fans

- Vince Lombardi was a great high school football coach before he became a great professional football coach. His St. Cecilia Saints, a Catholic team, won 25 games in a row before being held to a 0-0 tie by rival Union Hill. After the game, Mr. Lombardi and his wife met superfan and nun Sister Baptista. All of them were crying. Mrs. Lombardi said, “We didn’t lose the game.” Mr. Lombardi said, “But we didn’t win.” And according to Mrs. Lombardi, “Then we started crying all over again.”<sup>89</sup>

- Television viewers love the specials starring Charlie Brown. On the Valentine’s Day special, Charlie Brown doesn’t get a single valentine, so hundreds of viewers send valentines to the TV studio so that they can be given to Charlie Brown. On the Halloween special, Charlie Brown gets rocks instead of trick-or-treat candy, so viewers send bags of candy to the TV studio.<sup>90</sup>

## Fathers

- Having a Hall-of-Fame baseball player for a father does not mean that you will make it to the major leagues. Hank Aaron’s son played in the minor leagues, and Hank realized that his son would never get out of the minor leagues and that it would be better for him to pursue a different avenue in life. Therefore, as a baseball executive and as a father, he told his son, “You’ve got two choices. Either I can keep you here in A ball or you can go back to college, get your degree, come back out, and have a family.” His son thought about the choice, and he was about to make the wrong decision, so Hank told him, “While you’re thinking, here are



your release papers.” Of course, his son was angry at first, but much later and after graduating from college and becoming a schoolteacher, he told Hank, “Thanks for making that decision, because I couldn’t have made it.”<sup>91</sup>

- When she was a child, gymnast Nadia Comaneci could be naughty. At a store, she tried on a pair of roller skates. Because she wanted the roller skates so much, she skated out of the store, forcing her father to pay for them. In addition, one day she stayed outside until after dark, playing, and her parents worried about her. When she finally came home, her father spanked her once, then made her kneel on cracked walnut shells for three hours — so she would be as uncomfortable as he had been waiting for her to return home.<sup>92</sup>

- When Robin, politician Bob Dole’s daughter, was young, she wanted to get her ears pierced, so she wrote him a decision memo similar to those used in the Senate. She asked permission to get her ears pierced, and at the end of the memo she drew two boxes — one marked “Yes” and the other marked “No.” Senator Dole drew a third box on the memo and checked it — it said, “Maybe.”<sup>93</sup>

- Yitta Halberstam Mandelbaum’s father, a Rabbi, encouraged her to learn and to write. He steered her in the direction of the nonfiction section in the library, even though she preferred the fiction section. In addition, he paid her \$1 for each poem she wrote, and \$2 for each short story — a lot of money back then.<sup>94</sup>

- When Maria Montessori became interested in education, she wished to study a book by Edouard Séguin about disabled children. She hunted for the book in Rome, but could not find it. Finally an old, dirty, musty copy was found in New York. Before allowing her to read the book, her father disinfected it.<sup>95</sup>

- Thurgood Marshall’s father, William, endured prejudice, and he knew that his son would have to, also. He once told his son, “If anyone ever calls you a n\*gger, you not only got my permission to fight him, you got my *orders* to fight him.”<sup>96</sup>

- Pro basketball player Michael Jordan sometimes stuck his tongue out while playing hard on the basketball court. This is a habit he picked up from his father, who sometimes stuck out his tongue as he worked in his yard and house.<sup>97</sup>

- On the spur of the moment, Quaker humorist Tom Mullen decided to embarrass his young children after they boarded a bus taking them to 4-H camp — he ran after the bus, shouting, “They’re taking away my babies!”<sup>98</sup>

- Comedian Beatrice Lillie used to send her father money. When he died, she found a box at his house. Inside was all the money she had sent him and a note saying, “For my daughter, Beatrice Lillie, for a rainy day.”<sup>99</sup>

## Chapter 3: From Food to Husbands and Wives

### Food

- Canadian figure skater Toller Cranston enjoys putting on his friends, and he has the luck to get away with it. Once, Mr. Cranston and his friend David Liu ate in an all-you-can-eat Chinese restaurant, and standing at the buffet they saw a 500-pound woman loading up her tray with 20 desserts. Mr. Cranston told his friend, “Look at that woman. This is a disgrace. I am going to go right over there and snap that food away from her.” Mr. Cranston then went up to the woman, who recognized him and asked if she could have his autograph. Mr. Cranston replied, “Yes, but you’ll have to put down those desserts.” At this point, Mr. Liu was so horrified that he left the restaurant, and he still thinks (unless he’s read Mr. Cranston’s autobiography, *Zero Tolerance*) that Mr. Cranston forced the woman to put down her desserts.<sup>100</sup>
- In 1983, author Gary Paulsen first competed in the 1,049-mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Alaska. At one point, he had to feed most of his own food to a sled dog that had stopped eating the food he carried for his dogs. This meant that Mr. Paulsen had to survive on only butter until he reached the next checkpoint — where he ate 19 bowls of chili made with moose meat. (By the way, no one is really sure how many miles they travel in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The Iditarod Trail is definitely more than 1,000 miles long, but when people say the Iditarod Trail is 1,049 miles long, the “49” is in honor of Alaska’s being the 49<sup>th</sup> state.)<sup>101</sup>
- Balanchine ballerina Allegra Kent sometimes gained more weight than she should. To combat this tendency, she once put a huge chain around her refrigerator — only her children knew the combination to the chain’s lock. Unfortunately, one morning she wanted milk with her coffee, and she was up too early to go to a coffee shop. Therefore, she used a metal saw to saw through the chain — it took her 30 minutes, after which she found herself in the mood to eat a huge breakfast.<sup>102</sup>
- Country comedian Jerry Clower comes from Mississippi, where people love to eat grits. When he was at the Memphis airport one time, a waitress asked him if he wanted hash browns with his breakfast, and he said, “I grewed up poor. But I never was so poor I had to eat a hash potato for breakfast.” (Mr. Clower did a little lobbying for grits, and the restaurant quickly began to serve grits.)<sup>103</sup>
- When Jerry Lewis was a child, his mother prepared a stack of sandwiches for him on school days. Each sandwich had a large black and a large green olive. Jerry would put the olives on the side of his plate, eat the sandwiches, then eat the olives. When his mother asked why he did that, he replied, “I like the olives better than the sandwiches, so I’m saving them for my dessert.”<sup>104</sup>
- Richard Watson, a philosopher, used to love to eat cheap candy while reading. He frequently ate one pound of candy at a sitting — and he didn’t even notice when the manufacturers starting producing 24-ounce bags of candy. In fact, he remembers once sitting down with a 2-pound bag of candy orange slices and a book and eating every candy orange slice.<sup>105</sup>
- At Asbury College’s cafeteria, a bowl of Red Delicious apples was placed at the head of the serving line. To the bowl was attached a note, “Take only one, please — God is watching.” At

the end of the serving line was a plate of peanut butter cookies. To the plate was attached this note: “Take all you want — God is watching the apples.”<sup>106</sup>

- Poet Nikki Giovanni once invited several people to a party at which she served tiger shrimp along with chunks of grilled vegetables. She announced that everyone had to eat with their hands — because the food would taste better. (It also had the desired result of making the party very informal.)<sup>107</sup>

- Film critic Roger Ebert once got a recipe from his Aunt Mary, who told him, “One tater for everybody, one for the pot, and one for fear of company.” Mr. Ebert was amused by the word “fear,” but he also thought that the word was “Perfect. I wrote it down as part of the recipe.”<sup>108</sup>

- Theodore Giesel, aka Dr. Seuss, once tried to make a film version of *The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T*, but unfortunately the child actors were paid their money directly instead of it being given to their parents. The children took the money, then ate hot dogs until they vomited.<sup>109</sup>

- Author Donald Richie once attended a Japanese dinner. As the guest of honor, he was given the head of a fish to eat, and he was expected to eat all of it — including the eyes. Mr. Richie managed to exhibit good manners only after closing his own eyes.<sup>110</sup>

- Comedian Beatrice Lillie’s sister, Muriel, enjoyed cooking but suffered from a terrible temper. When she ruined the gravy, she often threw the pot out the back door into the garden.<sup>111</sup>

## Friends

- Sometimes, you simply have to have friends. Ask a couple of members of the doom-metal trio Zoroaster, whose debut album is titled *Dog Magic*. Guitarist/vocalist Will Fiore met bassist/vocalist Brent Anderson at a rural Georgia high school, outside Atlanta. During one of the first times they met outside school, they smoked together — using a 14-foot-high bong. Mr. Fiore says, “You had to go upstairs and lean over the loft and have someone down in the living room light it.” Later, the duo formed Zoroaster, and eventually, they added drummer Dan Scanlan.<sup>112</sup>

- Author Clarence Budington Kelland was once awakened at 3 a.m. by a knocking at his door. Opening the door, he discovered his friend Ring Lardner and invited him in. However, although Mr. Lardner was in the mood for company, he was not in the mood for talking (he seldom was); therefore, Mr. Lardner sat silently and Mr. Kelland eventually fell asleep. At dawn, Mr. Kelland was awakened by Mr. Lardner, who told him, “I don’t want to seem rude, but aren’t you ever going home?”<sup>113</sup>

- During the off-season, Dodger pitcher Carl Erskine made a wrong turn and ended up north of Cincinnati, Ohio, in Darrtown, where Dodger manager Walt Alston lived. It was a small town with only one phone booth and one gas station. Mr. Erskine got on the telephone, called Mr. Alston, and said, “I’m passing through town and wanted to stop and say hello. Tell me where you live.” Mr. Alston replied, “Turn around. I’m watching you out of the kitchen window.”<sup>114</sup>

- While attending junior high school, gymnast Bart Conner ran for a school office against one of his best friends, and he decided to vote for him out of friendship. When the votes were counted, Bart discovered that he had lost the election by exactly two votes — one was his own vote, and the other was his friend’s.<sup>115</sup>

## Gays and Lesbians

- A drag queen named Ron remembers the 1960s when the police raided gay clubs in New York. Whenever a police raid occurred, an employee of the club would turn on a light to alert the patrons, who would stop dancing and start pretending to be straight. He says that you would throw your wig behind a chair and rip off your eyelashes, adding, “You would grab a diesel dyke and pretend she was your girlfriend.” At one raid at Greene’s Dance Studio in Brooklyn, other people ran, but Ron was wearing a very tight dress that made it impossible for him to run, leading to his arrest. He was dressed as Jane Russell at the time, and a photograph appeared in a newspaper with this headline: “Jane Russell is a Man.” Years later, he told the story to the real Jane Russell, who sent him a photograph with the inscription “To us Janes, God bless us.”<sup>116</sup>

- Terry and Bill are a gay couple who have been together for over 25 years. Because they got together in the days before gays and lesbians could be legally married, they made up a date for their anniversary, choosing the first Friday in January because that is when they had their first date. Of course, the date of their anniversary changes from year to year, but they are original, after all. Each time the first Friday of January rolls around, they celebrate by eating at a nice restaurant. More and more, people are accepting homosexuality. Terry and Bill live in Lakewood, Washington, and they celebrated an anniversary in a nice restaurant in Steilacoom. Their male waiter overheard them toast each other, so he brought them a complimentary dessert and wished them, “Happy anniversary.” For both Terry and Bill, it was a special night.<sup>117</sup>

- Carol and Marie, a lesbian couple, once looked at a one-bedroom apartment in the company of Mrs. Hosserschall, a 70-year-old landlady. They were worried about what Mrs. Hosserschall’s reaction to them might be, but she was extremely nice. They decided to take the apartment, and Marie asked the very butch Carol to get the checkbook and pay the down payment. Mrs. Hosserschall said, “That’s right. Let your husband do it.” Marie replied, “Carol’s not, uh, we’re not — she’s not my husband, she’s my girlfriend.” Mrs. Hosserschall then asked if Carol paid her bills. Marie said that she did, so Mrs. Hosserschall said, “Well, then, she’d better get the checkbook before somebody rents the apartment out from under you.”<sup>118</sup>

- Coming out can cause emotional distress in families, but many families eventually — and sometimes quickly — find a way of dealing with it. One family at first took hard the news of learning that their son was gay, but a couple of months later they told him, “We just want you to know that the reason we are struggling with this is that we are afraid of losing you. We don’t want this issue to cause us to drift apart. And if there is anyone who has a problem with your being gay, they are no longer our friends. And that includes members of our extended family.”<sup>119</sup>

- Melissa Etheridge and her wife, Tammy Lynn Michaels, are affected by the singer’s fame. For example, the couple can’t go into a bar and enjoy themselves for very long. Ms. Etheridge points out, “Tammy and I will sometimes go out when we’re on the road and we’ll go into a bar and we know we’ll have 30 minutes before people call other people. We have a drink and pretend nobody knows us, and then we run outside.”<sup>120</sup>

- Russell Johnson and Dawn Wells (who played the Professor and Mary Ann on *Gilligan’s Island*) once did a public appearance together at Folsom Prison. The prison officials were

really worried about how the prisoners would react to Ms. Wells, a former Miss Nevada who wore short shorts as Mary Ann. As it turned out, Mr. Johnson received the most hoots, hollers, and whistles from the prisoners.<sup>121</sup>

- Sometimes, gays and lesbians discriminate. Lesbian humorist Garbo knows a lesbian landlady who rents always to homosexuals and never to heterosexuals. The landlady believes, “Too risky, these straight people. I only rent to family.”<sup>122</sup>
- Lesbian comedian Lea Delaria’s mother and sister have learned to accept her homosexuality. When they attended one of her concerts, she told them, “Listen, if you feel out of place, just hold hands. You’ll fit right in.” They laughed.<sup>123</sup>

## Gifts

- Teaching young children to write thank-you letters can be interesting. British newspaper journalist Valerie Grove once wanted her young son to write a thank-you letter to his aunt. As an aid, she gave him an example of a minimal thank-you letter formula: “Thank you very much for the [blank]. I like it very much.” Later, the boy’s aunt let her know that her son’s thank-you letter had said, “Thank you very much for the £10. I like it very much.”<sup>124</sup>
- George Balanchine was a choreographer for and a co-founder of the New York City Ballet. To each ballerina who worked with him, he gave a special perfume that matched her personality. Whenever he got on an elevator that one of the ballerinas had just vacated, he knew who had been there by the scent in the air.<sup>125</sup>
- Author Frank DeCaro’s Aunt Angie used to deliver gifts of homemade sugary treats to her local drug store every couple of weeks — she believed that she received better service from well-fed pharmacists.<sup>126</sup>

## Good Deeds

- In April of 1964, a little girl named Malkala became ill, spent seven weeks in the hospital, then was bed-ridden for several months at home with the prognosis that she would probably never walk again. Her school classmates decided to chip in to buy her a gift — the third record album by the Singing Rabbi, Shlomo Carlebach. (She already owned and enjoyed his first two albums.) Unfortunately, they weren’t able to find the record album in stores, so finally their music teacher called Rabbi Shlomo at his home. Rabbi Shlomo talked to her, then a few days later he showed up at the little girl’s home with a guitar in one hand and his album in the other. He gave her the album, then a personal concert, and he told her, “You are going to walk again, I promise you! And when you do, I want you to call me, and I will come to wherever you are at that time to watch how you’re walking. ... Because it’s not only going to be the most special moment in your life; it’s also going to be the most special in mine.” In August, she began to take a few steps in a resort in the Catskills. Rabbi Shlomo came, and he once again gave her a personal concert. Years later, in 1990, the now grown-up girl’s 20-year-old daughter was working at a summer camp for Jewish children with mental retardation. Rabbi Shlomo gave a concert there, and the daughter met him and asked if he remembered the ill little girl who couldn’t walk about 30 years ago, for she was the ill little girl’s daughter. Rabbi Shlomo said, “Of course, I remember your mother. I want to know everything about her.” The daughter wasn’t sure that Rabbi Shlomo really remembered her mother until he asked, “So tell me, does she still have the record album I brought her that day?”<sup>127</sup>

- When Sherwood Schwartz was hiring actors for the TV series *Gilligan's Island*, he interviewed dozens of actors for nearly every part. However, he didn't simply reject actors without explanation. He called each actor into his office and pointed out that they were good actors even though they didn't get the part. Mr. Schwartz described the character the actor had tried out for and made the actor see that he wasn't quite right for the character. Of course, the actor would feel bad at first that he didn't get the part, but Mr. Schwartz would reassure the actor that he had talent. That Mr. Schwartz was willing to do all this at the end of a long, hard day reinforced the respect that Bob Denver, who played Gilligan, felt for him.<sup>128</sup>
- During World War I, an English nurse was present when some badly wounded Germans were brought in. One mortally wounded German was a young boy of sixteen, and he kept calling for his mother. The nurse knew that he would die, but she wanted to do what little she could for the boy, so she went to him and held his hand. He was delirious, but he immediately calmed down, looked her in the eyes, and said, "Mother, I knew you would come." A few minutes later, he died.<sup>129</sup>
- Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, had a few nicknames. Because he was nearly six feet, four inches tall, he was called "Long Abe." When he was a young man, he and a partner had owned a store that went out of business. His partner died, leaving Mr. Lincoln to pay their unpaid bills by himself. Rather than trying to find a way to get out of paying the debts, Mr. Lincoln worked hard and paid off every debt, thus earning the nickname "Honest Abe."<sup>130</sup>
- Richard Watson is both a philosopher and a runner. While doing his daily run in a local park, Mr. Watson looks for cans and bottles. When he finds one lying around, he scoops it up, then slam dunks it into the nearest trash receptacle. Sometimes spectators cheer. (By the way, he is serious about his running. He once ran every day for over 200 straight days.)<sup>131</sup>

## Grandparents

- When major-league baseball star Barry Bonds was still attending classes and playing games at Arizona State, he visited his grandfather for a while when he had some time off. Unfortunately, when he drove back to Arizona State, his mother called him and let him know that his grandfather had died. Barry said, "No, he didn't — I just saw him a couple of hours ago." His grandfather had died while sitting in a chair and watching some recordings of Barry's games. Barry always had a lot of respect for his grandfather, who attended his games when Barry's father, Bobby, couldn't because Bobby was playing major-league baseball. Barry also respected his grandfather because his grandfather had grown up during a time of hatred — the Jim Crow era — and yet his grandfather had not become a hateful man. Barry says, "To grow up in those times and not have any hatred, nothing — it's incredible." Barry's grandfather gave him a present that had belonged to his grandfather and that he still has today: a cross on a chain. Barry acquired an excellent work ethic from his family. He worked out five hours a day during the off-season so he could keep in shape for major-league baseball. Even when he shot a movie in Vancouver, his contract stated that he would have time off from filming so he could work out for five hours a day.<sup>132</sup>
- NBA basketball great Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway was named after one of the high-school classmates of his mother, Fae, who thought that Anfernee was "such a beautiful name." When Anfernee was born, Louise Hardaway, his grandmother, saw him and nicknamed him "Pretty," a nickname that changed over the years to "Penny." His grandmother watched him closely

when he was very young. He had to be home before dark, although many of his friends were allowed to stay out well after dark. Penny says, “There I was, wanting to cry because I didn’t think it was fair. I thought, ‘Man, I can’t wait to get out of here.’” However, his grandmother understood that the Memphis neighborhood they lived in was very rough, with alcohol and drug abuse and lots of crime. Some boys in the neighborhood got caught robbing and stealing and ended up in serious trouble. One of Penny’s grade-school teachers told him, “You’re going to thank your grandmother one day.” Penny says, “And I do now.”<sup>133</sup>

- One grandmother was upset because her grandchildren didn’t write thank-you letters when she gave them a gift. Therefore, she wrote each of her grandchildren that unless they started writing her thank-you letters, she had sent them the last gift they would ever receive from her. It worked — she soon began to receive thank-you letters.<sup>134</sup>

### **Halloween**

- One Halloween, Fr. Ambrose German, OFM, of St. George Church on Hermann, Missouri, wore his Franciscan habit as he passed out treats to the various witches and goblins that came trick or treating. One costumed boy asked, “And who are you supposed to be?”<sup>135</sup>

- TV’s Mister Rogers was well loved by his real neighbors as well as by his television neighbors. For one thing, at Halloween he gave away full-sized candy bars, not the little snack-sized candy bars.<sup>136</sup>

### **Husbands and Wives**

- Steve Pollak, an elementary schoolteacher, member of the Phish, and songwriter of “Suzy Greenberg,” is married to Leslie, who had prayed to meet someone to share her life. On her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, she blew out the candles on her birthday cake and then prayed, “OK, God, I want to find someone who falls madly in love with me, and then hear the pitter patter of little feet after that.” Sure enough, soon afterward, she found a dog dodging trucks on a bridge near where she lived. She adopted the dog, named him Willie, and shared her life with him. Leslie’s aunt told her, “You said pitter patter of little feet, and fall in love with you — you weren’t specific.” Therefore, on her next birthday, Leslie was more specific. After blowing out the birthday-cake candles, she prayed, “OK, God, I want a tall dark male human being to fall in love with me, whom I fall in love with, but the clincher is he needs to propose to me before my college reunion on June 8<sup>th</sup>.” Being specific counts. She made the prayer January 17<sup>th</sup>, she met Steve March 23<sup>rd</sup>, they were engaged May 11<sup>th</sup>, and they went to her reunion June 8<sup>th</sup>. Leslie says, “True story.”<sup>137</sup>

- Actors Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson got married, and they stayed married. While they were appearing on a television talk show together, the host asked them about their long marriage, “How do you make your relationship work?” At this point, Ms. Jackson said in a guilty voice, “I’m so sorry. We have a terrible announcement to make.” The audience and the talk show host thought that she was going to announce an impending divorce, but she said, “Our relationship has worked simply because I am a saint.” Of course, their relationship did occasionally come under stress because their careers necessitated separations as one or the other went to another country to make a movie. Once, Mr. Wallach came home and apologized for having been away from his family so long. His middle child, young Roberta, replied, “Well, we always had the feeling you wanted to come back.”<sup>138</sup>

- Aviator Amelia Earhart's husband was George Palmer Putnam, who sometimes licensed her name and face to various advertisers without her approval. For example, one advertisement she disapproved of was for Lucky cigarettes. She took the money her husband had received for the endorsement and donated it to Richard Byrd, who was about to attempt an expedition to the Antarctic. When her husband sold her name to a company that manufactured shoddy children's hats that bore her signature, she protested, but he told her that the manufacturer had already made the hats. She replied, "Then he can unmake them! I won't be a party to cheating kids!"<sup>139</sup>
- Sherwood Schwartz was the creator and producer of the 1960s TV sitcom *Gilligan's Island*. At the time, the censors were very strict about what could and couldn't be on television. Because of this, Mr. Schwartz kept a close eye on the cleavage displayed by Tina Louise, who played Ginger. In addition, to satisfy the censors, he had to be sure that Dawn Wells, who played Mary Ann, didn't display her belly button too often. One night, he went home at the end of a long day and when his wife asked how his day had gone, he replied, "It was rough, dear. Between Tina's breasts and Dawn's belly button, I didn't have a moment's peace."<sup>140</sup>
- The first woman to cross the United States in an automobile was Alice Huyler Ramsey, whose first car was given to her by her husband, a lawyer named Bone. Mr. Ramsey never drove a car in his life. Sponsored by the Maxwell-Briscoe Company, Mrs. Ramsey set out from Manhattan on June 9, 1909, and arrived in San Francisco on August 10 of that year. Along the way, she met many fans, including a farmer's wife who told her, "I read about you in the paper, and I've come six miles to see you." In part because of Mrs. Ramsey's cross-country trip, Americans became convinced that automobile travel was safe.<sup>141</sup>
- Del Moore, who was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, co-starred with Betty White in the TV series *Life With Elizabeth*. Although he and his wife did not celebrate their wedding anniversary or each other's birthdays, they did celebrate each anniversary of the day Mr. Moore joined AA. On one occasion, they celebrated with a huge cake decorated with a water wagon being pulled by several pink elephants.<sup>142</sup>
- Humorist Ring Lardner was once asked how his wife had helped him in his career. He replied, "In 1914 or 1915, I think it was July, she cleaned my white shoes. She dusted my typewriter in 1922. Late one night in 1924 we got home from somewhere and I said I was hungry and she gave me a verbal picture of the location of the pantry. Another time I quit cigarettes and she felt sorry for me."<sup>143</sup>
- Alex George was booed mercilessly at a basketball game he refereed. His wife was present during the game. After the game, he suggested that perhaps she should stay home during the other games he refereed — after all, she must find it uncomfortable to be present while the fans stood up and booed him. She replied, "No, it's not a problem — I stood up and booed, too."<sup>144</sup>
- In the 1920s, Art Friedman was a politician in Brooklyn. Once, he complained to his wife about the bad press coverage he was then receiving. She told him not to worry about it — after all, he was getting quite a lot of publicity from it. Mr. Friedman still complained, "But you don't seem to understand. Half of those lies they publish about me aren't true!"<sup>145</sup>
- When Benjamin Franklin first arrived in Philadelphia as a young man, he went into a store and bought three rolls of bread for three pennies. He carried a roll of bread under each arm, and as he walked he ate the third roll. A young woman saw him and laughed at him. Her name was Deborah Read, and she later became his common-law wife.<sup>146</sup>



- Yogi Berra started dating his future wife, Carmen, and word got around that he was going to marry her even though she wasn't Italian — something that raised eyebrows in his old neighborhood in St. Louis. Yogi was asked, "What will the girls in the neighborhood think?" Yogi replied, "I dunno," then added, "They all had their chance."<sup>147</sup>
- While going through Customs, Groucho Marx once asked his wife in a stage whisper, "What did you do with the opium? Do you still have it in your girdle?" The Customs officials were not amused. The Marxes were led away and forced to strip to prove that they weren't smuggling drugs.<sup>148</sup>
- The first fight that Zero and Kate Mostel had after they were married ended with him going into the bedroom and making loud packing noises, following which he walked out of the bedroom dressed in nothing but his socks and a bow tie — which he had *not* tied around his neck.<sup>149</sup>
- When mystery writer Agatha Christie was asked what it was like to be married to an anthropologist, she replied, "It's just wonderful! The older I get, the more interested he becomes."<sup>150</sup>
- King Henry II of England once grew angry at his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. His way of handling his anger was both original and interesting — he kept his wife prisoner in a castle.<sup>151</sup>

## Chapter 4: From Illness to Names

### Illness

- As a boy, ballet dancer André Eglevsky suffered from a cough that caused his family to travel to a healthier locale for him. However, young André learned that a cough does have its advantages. While traveling in a crowded train compartment, young André had a bad fit of coughing. As he coughed and coughed, the other passengers left the train compartment, finally leaving André alone with his mother, his nurse, and his sister.<sup>152</sup>
- Quaker humorist Tom Mullen once complained to his doctor about the fact that he needed to go to the restroom several times a night and that he often suffered from gastritis. His doctor asked how old he was, and after hearing the answer said, “You’re right on schedule.”<sup>153</sup>

### Language

- The family of former *Times Herald Record* columnist Beth Quinn, like many families, sometimes makes up its own words and its own phrases — words and phrases that have their own known-to-family-and-friends-only meanings. For example, her family, which loves dogs, uses the word “eardo” to describe a dog that has one long ear flopped up on top of its head instead of hanging down as it should. And her family will sometimes use the phrase “Here! Have a kifling!” to say that something is really huge. This phrase originated when Beth’s grandmother asked Kathy, one of Beth’s friends, for her kifling recipe. A kifling is a small, delicate cookie that is supposed to be no bigger than your pinkie finger. However, after getting the recipe, Beth’s Grammy created a batch of huge kiflings, each of them bigger than her hand. Staggering into the living room under the weight of the tray of huge cookies, Grammy told Beth and Kathy, “Here! Have a kifling!”<sup>154</sup>
- When they were children, young people’s author William “Billy” Sleator and Vicky, his sister, taught their younger siblings, Danny and Tycho, cuss words. However, after Danny sang a dirty song with cuss words — a dirty song that Billy and Vicky had taught him — to their grandmother, they decided that they should try to get Danny and Tycho not to say the cuss words again. Therefore, they invented a word — *drang* — and told Danny and Tycho never to say it, as it was the worst of all cuss words. For a few hours, Danny and Tycho said the word *drang* every chance they got, but since no one was shocked when they said *drang*, they went back to saying the other cuss words — the ones that made adults look shocked.<sup>155</sup>
- Groucho Marx once allowed Ed Metcalf, a bit player in a Marx Brothers show, to take care of his son, three-year-old Arthur Marx, but warned him not to let young Arthur pour an entire bowl of sugar on his cereal. Mr. Metcalf understood this to mean not to let young Arthur have any sugar at all, so every time young Arthur said, “Pass the sugar,” he wouldn’t do it. This made young Arthur mad, so he finally said, “Pass the sugar — you son of a b\*tch.” Later, Groucho taught his son that he had been guilty of bad etiquette. According to Groucho, what young Arthur should have said was, “Please pass the sugar — you son of a b\*tch.”<sup>156</sup>
- When Mem Fox, the Australian young people’s author of *Possum Magic*, was less than one year old, her parents moved to Southern Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) in Africa. This meant that she became fluent not only in English, but also in Ndebele, the local African language. Her knowledge of Ndebele did have what she considered an advantage — she was

able to be cheeky to her mother in a language that her mother didn't understand. Her mother would have to ask a native to translate what her daughter had said: "What did she say, the little monkey?"<sup>157</sup>

- In the Old North cemetery in Portsmouth, New Hampshire is a headstone for "Benjamin M. Burnham, Originator of the Trite Swearing." Before he died in 1855, Mr. Burnham was famous for his anti-swearing pledge and for advocating the substitution of innocuous words for swear words. For example, if you were to hit your thumb with a hammer, Mr. Burnham would want you to say something like, "Oh, peanut butter fudge" instead of what the author of this book would say.<sup>158</sup>

- President Harry S. Truman spoke plainly. While speaking to the Washington Garden Society, he kept mentioning the "good manure" that was needed for a good garden. A society lady complained to Mrs. Truman, "Can't you make him say something else?" Mrs. Truman replied, "Heavens, no. It took me 25 years to get him to say 'manure.'"<sup>159</sup>

## Mishaps

- Zoe Williams, a columnist for Great Britain's *Guardian*, has had a few embarrassing incidents because of breastfeeding, including one memorable moment when she squirted herself in the eye outside a Woolworth's. However, her most embarrassing moment came when she was in a restaurant and noticed that one of her breast pads was on the floor. Hoping to act quickly before anyone noticed, she grabbed the breast pad and put it back in her blouse — unfortunately, she put it back in on the side that already had a breast pad. Result: one side had double coverage and the other side had no coverage. Her waiter, a man who resembled the actor Ewan McGregor, came over, and unfortunately her breasts leaked. The side that had no coverage displayed a very large, very noticeable stain that was very definitely noticed by Mr. McGregor — I mean, by the waiter.<sup>160</sup>

- Geri Jewell is a hearing-impaired comedian (although her main handicap is cerebral palsy), which can sometimes lead to misunderstandings. For example, once some fans called her name and followed her down a street, and they thought she was ignoring them. Instead, she simply wasn't wearing her hearing aids that day — she wears them only about 60 percent of the time, and quite often, as when background noise is present, they don't help. In addition, she and another hearing-impaired comedian, Kathy Buckley, sometimes have "deaf lunch." They make a lunch date, but one of them mishears the other, and so they end up eating alone in different restaurants, with each of them wondering where the other one is.<sup>161</sup>

- Some animals are very good at mimicking human voices. A German woman once got on a train and put a cage in the luggage rack. Later, some other people joined her and started talking to her. During a pause in the conversation, a voice was heard coming from the luggage rack. The other people were shocked and accused the German woman of putting her child in the luggage rack. Smiling, the German woman took out the cage, and showed the other people the source of the voice — an African grey parrot.<sup>162</sup>

- The Carroll Theatre in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, used to give away dishes as an incentive to get people away from their television sets and in front of live entertainment. One week, the theatre gave away dinner plates, the next week soup bowls, another week saucers, etc. Each week, without fail, the audience would sit with their free dishes in their lap, become engrossed

by the show, and forget about the dishes. After the show, they would applaud, then stand up — and their free dishes would fall to the floor and break.<sup>163</sup>

- Languages are difficult to learn because so many expressions are used in only one language. For example, an American says that you are driving too fast by asking, “Where’s the fire?” However, this expression does not translate literally into other languages. Ruth Sasaki once thought her taxi driver in Tokyo was driving too fast, so she asked him, in Japanese, where the fire was. This confused the driver, who replied that he did not know where the fire was, but if she would tell him the address, he would drive her there.<sup>164</sup>

- Quaker humorist Tom Mullen frequently visited an old man who told the same stories over and over, so instead of listening to the old man, sometimes he tuned out and merely said “uh-huh” at pauses in the old man’s conversation. Once, the old man asked, “Is ‘uh-huh’ all you can say to me?” With his mind still on automatic pilot, Mr. Mullen replied, “Uh-huh.”<sup>165</sup>

- On the old TV show *Name that Tune*, the song title to be guessed was “I Love You.” A newlywed had made several incorrect guesses, so emcee George De Witt gave her a hint: “What did you say to your husband on your wedding night?” The newlywed thought for a moment, then said this remarkable blooper: “Gosh, that’s a hard one.”<sup>166</sup>

- Theodore Giesel, aka Dr. Seuss, wasn’t good with money — his wife took care of their finances, as he couldn’t even balance a checkbook — and he never carried money on him. Occasionally, he would dine in restaurants with friends, offer to pay the check, then realize that he had no money on him.<sup>167</sup>

## Money

- At the end of the Marx Brothers movie *A Day at the Races* is a horse race in which High Hat defeats Small Wonder. All of the Marx Brothers, of course, had read the script and knew that High Hat would win the race, but Groucho learned that Chico, who loved to gamble, had bet with a stagehand that Small Wonder would win. “I always thought you were crazy,” Groucho said. “Now I’m sure of it.” But Chico replied, “What’s crazy? I just looked at the tote board and the odds on Small Wonder are 15 to 1.” Of course, Chico was a comic genius as a Marx Brother and made lots of money. Unfortunately, since he was a compulsive gambler he threw his money away. This never bothered him; he enjoyed spending or gambling away every dime he made. However, it did bother his brothers: Harpo and Groucho. Therefore, his brothers hit on a plan. Knowing that Chico was desperate to make money, they delayed signing a new movie contract until Chico agreed to turn over half his earnings to a qualified investment manager who would invest the money for him and his family. The plan worked — at least for a while.<sup>168</sup>

- Is it worthwhile to pick up coins from the street? Eileen Bartlett picks up change from the streets of Denver, Colorado, although people sometimes scoff at her. Having lived in Ireland for a year, she has a perfect reply, explaining that “refusing the least treasure placed by the fairies could lead to major troubles.” Once a year, at the end of April, she takes all the coins she has gathered and converts them to dollars; the annual average is approximately \$9 to \$13. She says, “When I’m ready to retire, I’m going to buy some little piece of art to show the scoffers that ‘a penny saved is a penny earned.’” Will Galway also stoops to pick up coins from the street, although he does it as a stretching exercise, pointing out that “stretching comes

much cheaper than joining a health club. I think of the coins as being a slight, but amusing, discount on my 'membership' in my own personal 'health club.'"<sup>169</sup>

- Harry Heilman signed to play professional baseball with Portland for \$275 a month, which was OK money for the time. He was eager to help his far-from-wealthy parents, so he saved his money and sent his parents \$500. This was more money than his parents had ever seen at one time, so his mother sent Harry a telegram, "COME HOME AT ONCE. YOU MUST BE IN BAD COMPANY."<sup>170</sup>

- General T. Coleman du Pont, a very rich man, had a sense of humor. He used to find gold-digging blondes, arouse their hopes that they had found a sugar daddy who would shower them with diamonds and fur coats in return for sexual favors, then he would invite them to a stuffy family dinner, introduce them to his daughters and nieces, and dash their hopes by being respectable.<sup>171</sup>

- When Zero Mostel was preparing to star in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, his wife, Kate, hoped that the show would last long enough for her to get the money to reupholster their sofa. Once it was obvious that the show would be a hit, a friend told her, "Kate, reupholster everything."<sup>172</sup>

- Carlos Bulosan, author of *America Is in the Heart*, was frequently short of money. His older brother, Aurelio, always knew when Carlos had needed money because he would look in his wallet and find a note from him: "Minus twenty dollars."<sup>173</sup>

- As a child, comedian Carol Burnett was very poor. Sometimes, she and her grandmother would splurge on the movies, but before leaving the movie theater, they would go into all the stalls in the ladies room and steal the toilet paper.<sup>174</sup>

- Chico Marx once brought his ex-wife to a party. When he was asked why, he said, "I wanted to be close to my money."<sup>175</sup>

## Mothers

- When basketball star Cynthia Cooper was growing up in Watts, money was tight, and her fatherless family, which included her seven siblings, ate a lot of potatoes, pinto beans, and rice, as these foods were cheap and could be bought in bulk. In fact, sometimes her mother would buy a 100-pound sack of potatoes. Occasionally, Cynthia and one of her brothers would beg for nickels so they could buy candy and potato chips. Of course, Cynthia became a big basketball star, winning two national championship NCAA titles in 1983 and 1984 while playing for the University of Southern California, an Olympic gold medal in 1988, an Olympic bronze medal in 1992, and numerous WNBA Championships as a Houston Comet. When Ms. Cooper won her Olympic gold medal in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea, she placed it around her mother's neck — it was her mother's 52<sup>nd</sup> birthday.<sup>176</sup>

- At first, the great ballerina Margot Fonteyn worried about dancing with Rudolf Nureyev because she was older than he. Fortunately, she overcame her worries about mutton dancing with lamb, and one of ballet's great partnerships was created. Nevertheless, once a woman fan who had been talking in Russian with Mr. Nureyev in a restaurant suddenly noticed Ms. Fonteyn and asked Mr. Nureyev in English, "Who is that? Your mother?"<sup>177</sup>

- Janet Lynn was an Olympic figure skater in 1972, and after retiring she became a housewife and mother. During a school trip in Minnesota, she skated and the teachers and other parents who knew her as Mrs. Janet Salomon were surprised that she skated so well. One of her children told them, “My mom is Janet Lynn” — and a surprised teacher exclaimed, “YOUR MOTHER’S JANET LYNN!”<sup>178</sup>
- During World War II, women joined the war effort by laboring in factories and shipyards as their husbands, boyfriends, and sons went off to war. When a ship was sunk in the Pacific Ocean near the island of Guadalcanal, a life preserver saved the life of seaman Elgin Staples. His life preserver came from Akron, Ohio, where Mr. Staples’ mother had inspected, packed, and stamped it.<sup>179</sup>
- When Groucho Marx was a child, his mother would give him six cents and send him to the store to buy fresh bread. Day-old bread cost a nickel, and young Groucho would buy that and put the extra penny in his pocket. His mother knew he was keeping the extra penny, but she never said anything to him — she wanted to encourage him to keep using his initiative.<sup>180</sup>
- The families of talented ballerinas often have to make sacrifices. While studying ballet, young Darci Kistler needed to take lessons in Los Angeles — a three-hour round trip from her family’s home in Riverside. Without complaint, her mother drove her each day. In fact, her mother said that she cherished the time she spent with her daughter on these long trips.<sup>181</sup>
- When Robert Louis Stevenson, author of *Treasure Island*, wished to sail to the Cannibal Islands, he also wished to take his family, including his aged mother, Maggie, with him. Concerned for his mother’s safety, Mr. Stevenson asked the ship’s captain, A.H. Otis, what he would do if Maggie fell overboard. The sea captain replied, “Put it in the log.”<sup>182</sup>
- John Waters is a trial junkie who really enjoys attending the trials of famous criminals such as Charles Manson. Once, he even took his mother to the Watergate trial of President Richard Nixon, and they waited 15 hours in the rain to get a seat. His father thought they were crazy, but his mother said, “I had cocktail chatter for a month.”<sup>183</sup>
- When gay comedian Bob Smith broke up with his long-time boyfriend, Tom, he joked to his mother that since he was now living alone, he could live like a slob and throw his clothes on the floor. She replied, “Bob, you were a slob when you were with Tom. You better not get any sloppier or *nobody* will want you.”<sup>184</sup>
- Children tend to say what their parents tell them not to say. For example, one young student told Beth Joiner, a children’s dance teacher, “My mama said to tell you that she would pay you for my lessons next week, but she said not to tell you that she spent the money for my lessons on a new toaster.”<sup>185</sup>
- While playing for Fort Wayne in the All American Girls Professional Baseball League, Dottie Wiltse Collins kept on pitching even though she was pregnant — her doctor thought the exercise would be good for her. Finally, she quit when she was six months pregnant, took a year off to have and care for her baby, then returned to pro ball.<sup>186</sup>
- When horror writer Stephen King was young, his family had little money to buy books, but his mother, Ruth, once treated herself to a bunch of used paperbacks with the covers torn off, paying five cents each for what she told young Stephen were “cheap, sweet vacations.”<sup>187</sup>

- While growing up, Kelly McCormick was sometimes angry at being overshadowed by her famous, Olympic gold-medal-winning mother, Pat. Once, her mother introduced Kelly as her “wayward daughter,” and Kelly said, “Yeah, I’m following in your footsteps.”<sup>188</sup>
- In 1962, Plácido Domingo sang in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Lily Pons. On the back of a photograph of the two opera stars, Mr. Domingo’s mother wrote, “Lily Pons and Little Plácido.” At the time, Mr. Plácido was 21 years old and stood six-feet, one-inch tall.<sup>189</sup>
- Seattle Mariner Alex Rodriguez’ mother was a waitress. To teach her baseball-playing son math skills, she used to have him count her tips.<sup>190</sup>

## Music

- The parents of children’s book author Barbara Park — creator of Junie B. Jones — were very supportive; in fact, she thought it was funny how supportive they were. For example, when Barbara was taking piano lessons, her mother thought that she would be a wonderful pianist. One day, Barbara mentioned her mother’s high opinion of her piano playing to her father, who told her, seriously, “But you were good. You played the piano beautifully. You were *really, really good.*” However, Barbara remembers her 4<sup>th</sup>-grade piano recital, at which she attempted to play “Born Free.” She played the first page, and then she forgot the next four pages of the song. Therefore, she played the last chord of the song and left the stage.<sup>191</sup>
- When they were children, young people’s author William Sleator and Vicky, his sister, sometimes babysat their younger siblings Danny and Tycho. One of the things they did to amuse their younger siblings was to sing them a babysitting song that they had created — Vicky played the tune on the piano. The song was about two young children whose parents left them; the end of the song was “They never saw their mommy and daddy again.” Danny and Tycho used to listen to the song and cry, but when it was over, they requested, “Play it again. *Please* play it again.”<sup>192</sup>
- During a rehearsal of *Otello*, Plácido Domingo, who was playing the title role, was throwing the opera’s Iago, Sherrill Milnes, around on stage. Because Mr. Milnes is far from being a lightweight, he was of course helping. However, Mr. Milnes’ young son was unaware of this, and he started crying, “Daddy! Daddy!” Fortunately, Mr. Domingo was able to reassure him by saying, “Don’t worry. Daddy’s as strong as a mule and could easily do me in if he wanted to. Besides, he’ll get back at me during the opera.”<sup>193</sup>
- When she was a little girl, Christina Aguilera used to sing concerts to an audience that consisted of all of her stuffed animals. (She used an old baton as a microphone.) She also used to sing along with *The Sound of Music* soundtrack. All that early practice paid off. At a Beaver County talent contest, young Christina sang and another contestant who heard her refused to go onstage and compete because Christina was too good. Of course, Christina won the talent contest easily.<sup>194</sup>
- English entertainer Joyce Grenville knew a couple of sisters who were interested in music. Whenever they needed a housemaid or a cowman, they would advertise for a housemaid or a cowman with a particular musical talent; for example, a contralto-housemaid or a tenor-cowman. These servants formed a choir for which the sisters provided professional direction. Frequently, the servant choir gave concerts.<sup>195</sup>

## Names

- These days, you can legally change your name in Great Britain for only £7.50 online, and many people have taken advantage of the cheap rate. Many people have used UK Deed Poll Service to change their names. Unfortunately, some people have changed their names to such atrocities as Toasted T Cake, Daddy Fantastic, and Jellyfish McSaveloy — possibly as the result of lost pub bets. Louise Bowers of UK Deed Poll Service says, “I did a Darth Vader once, and he asked me to become his Princess Leia. My husband wasn’t too pleased.”<sup>196</sup>
- After being married for over 30 years to his wife, Carmen, Yogi Berra sent her an anniversary card — and signed it, “Yogi Berra.” This amused Carmen, and she asked him why he had signed his full name — did he think she might think the anniversary card had come from another “Yogi”?<sup>197</sup>
- When Clyde, Maya Angelou’s son, grew up, he decided that he wanted to be called “Guy.” Ms. Angelou told him about a river in Scotland that was named the Clyde River, but her son replied, “It’s an O.K. name for a river, but my name is Guy.” Ms. Angelou started calling him “Guy.”<sup>198</sup>
- As is well known, “Plato” is a nickname. John Herman Randall, Jr. jokes in *Plato: Dramatist of the Life of Reason* that “Plato” means “broad,” so this famous philosopher had the nickname “Fatso.”<sup>199</sup>
- Michael Dell, founder of Dell Corporation, which makes computers, has a set of twins. He and his wife named them Zero and One.<sup>200</sup>



## Chapter 5: From Parents to Work

### Parents

- The parents of Joanne Ryder, a children's book author, had different approaches to appreciating nature. When Joanne was little, her father would gather a small creature in his hands, then tell her, "Joanne, I have something really fabulous to show you." He would reveal the creature: a caterpillar, a snail, a beetle, etc. She says, "Then gently he would then let me hold it, and I could feel it move, wiggle, or crawl as I held it in my hand. So I became very comfortable holding tiny animals." Her mother, on the other hand, enjoyed walks and sunsets, but her attitude toward tiny creatures was opposite to that of her husband. Joanne says about her mother, "She belonged to the 'squish' school. Her theory was, if you see a bug, squish it!"<sup>201</sup>
- Of course, President Lyndon B. Johnson was often introduced with many compliments and rhetorical flourishes. On occasions when the flattery was really poured on thick, he would say, "I wish my mother and father might have been here to hear that introduction. My father would have enjoyed it, and my mother would have believed it."<sup>202</sup>

### Practical Jokes

- Many people in the frontier days had a rough sense of humor. Once, a Methodist preacher asked Texas cattleman Brit Bailey for a place to sleep overnight in his house. Mr. Bailey agreed, providing that the preacher obeyed the "house rules." Shortly afterward, Mr. Bailey pulled a gun on the preacher, then said that the house rules were for the preacher to strip naked, climb up on a table, and dance. The preacher had no choice but to obey. Later that night, Mr. Bailey turned his back on the preacher, and when he turned around, he found himself looking at a gun in the preacher's hand. The preacher then ordered Mr. Bailey to strip naked, climb up on a table and dance. Mr. Bailey had no choice but to obey. (Later, the two men became friends.)<sup>203</sup>
- While ill in a hospital, Robert Benchley had a doctor who walked into his room each morning and asked, "And how are we this morning?" Being a humorist, Mr. Benchley asked a friend to bring him some glue, which he applied to his posterior. He then applied feathers from his pillow to the glue. The next morning, when the doctor asked him how "we" were doing, Mr. Benchley replied, "I don't think we're doing so well," and showed the doctor his posterior. Mr. Ford also had a different friend who smuggled a jar of live guppies into the hospital and put them in his bedpan, making his nurse's life more exciting.<sup>204</sup>
- Canadian figure skater Toller Cranston once acquired an old photograph of skating and movie star Sonja Henie. He wrote a fake inscription on it — "To Dearest Toller, Only you will compete with my legend. Love, Sonja" — then watched the reactions of his friends as they read the inscription after he explained (that is, lied) that he had met Sonja in LA in the late 1960s, just before she died, and that he had asked her to write a dramatic inscription for him. Such figure-skating legends as Brian Boitano, Robin Cousins, Caryn Kadavy, Brian Orser, and JoJo Starbuck saw the inscription and were very impressed.<sup>205</sup>
- British celebrity Jeremy Beadle was known for his pranks. For example, he used to go to work, stand out of the sight of other people, and imitate birdcalls. When he met Tony Elliott,

founder of the magazine *Time Out*, he made a memorable entrance. He somersaulted into Mr. Elliott's office, stood up, and grabbed his (own) crotch — something that Mr. Elliott calls “a very characteristic gesture” for Mr. Beadle. Mr. Elliott remembers his late friend fondly: “Jerry was just such great fun to be with. He had an enormous amount of time for everyone.”<sup>206</sup>

- Humorist Mark Twain, author of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, once stayed at the home of political cartoonist Thomas Nast, who first used the images of an elephant and a donkey to represent the Republican and the Democratic parties. During the night, Mr. Twain was bothered by the sounds of the Nast family's clocks, so he got up and stopped all of them. The next morning, everyone overslept. Mr. Twain explained what had happened and stated that the clocks had been working too hard, so they should benefit from a good night's rest.<sup>207</sup>

- Actor David Garrick was good friends with artist William Hogarth, and he sat for many portraits with him. In fact, Mr. Garrick was such a good friend and such a good actor that after novelist Henry Fielding died, Mr. Garrick sat for Mr. Fielding's portrait, excellently imitating his late friend. Of course, Mr. Garrick was not above teasing a friend. Once, Mr. Hogarth was painting Mr. Garrick's portrait, but had to stop because Mr. Garrick kept using his acting ability to constantly change the expression on his face.<sup>208</sup>

- While writing his multi-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln, Carl Sandburg became completely engrossed in his subject. A couple of practical jokers decided to dress a tall man up as Lincoln and have him walk by the restaurant where Sandburg ate breakfast each morning. Mr. Sandburg noticed the tall man dressed as Lincoln, and without blinking or even slowing his stride, said, “Good morning, Mr. President,” then went into the restaurant for breakfast.<sup>209</sup>

- Political cartoonist Thomas Nast used to go out on the lecture circuit and create drawings as he talked to his audience and answered questions. One of the most popular parts of his lecture occurred when he drew in front of the audience a picture that no one thought made any sense — until he turned it right side up and showed the audience that it was a picture of Niagara Falls!<sup>210</sup>

### **Problem-Solving**

- How bad do you want it, and what are you willing to do to get it? All of us have asked that question to ourselves, and many different answers result. As for being high school prom queen, Leslie Hall says, “I just wanted it really, really bad.” She did the usual things to get what she wanted: making posters and being nice to the members of the prom committee. She also did something unusual: In the homecoming parade, she wore a dress she had gotten from Goodwill, and she wore a neck brace. She ended up with her photograph on the front page of the local newspaper — and more. Ms. Hall says, “I went for ‘crippled, poor and innocent,’ and people loved it — they just ate it up. It's amazing what a little creative campaigning can getcha.” What can it getcha? She answers, “The crown, actually. It can get you the crown.” More recently, Ms. Leslie is well known for her online collection of gem sweaters at <http://www.lesliehall.com/> and for her electro-rap videos on <youtube.com>.<sup>211</sup>

- On the frontier, unqualified people sometimes felt that they had been called to preach. In such cases, other religious people would try to find an un hurtful way to prevent these unqualified people from preaching. One such unqualified person had size 13 feet, so the examining committee denied him a license to preach because the Bible says, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings.” The unqualified person

accepted this because he remembered that when he had heard the call to preach, he had been in bed and his feet were covered up, and so the spirit world must have made a mistake. In another case, a person saw a vision in which the flaming letters “G.P.C.” had appeared in the sky — letters that he interpreted as meaning, “Go Preach Christ.” However, an old deacon who felt that the applicant was unqualified to preach said that knowing the applicant as well as he did, he felt sure that the letters stood for “Go Pick Cotton.”<sup>212</sup>

- A woman was bothered at work by men who kept trying to date her, even though she had already turned each of them down many times. She felt like telling them that she was a lesbian, but she didn’t want to make it seem like she was using her sexual orientation as a weapon against them to make them stop. Instead, she wanted to come out more naturally. Finally, she invited her lover to a company picnic. The men thought her lover was hot, and they tried to date her at first. However, at the picnic, she let her lover lay in her lap, she played with her lover’s hair, and finally the men got the idea that these two women were lovers. She says, “From then on I was not only left alone by them at work, but I swear I was completely respected. I was an out lesbian who didn’t threaten them and scream at them but just lived her life, and I think it got through.”<sup>213</sup>

- When Debbi Fields opened her first Mrs. Fields’ gourmet cookies store on August 18, 1977, she was only 20 years old. The store did not get off to a good start. To bake the cookies, she arrived at 6 p.m., then she opened the store at 9 a.m. By noon, not even one cookie had been sold. Undaunted, she walked around, giving away free samples and inviting potential customers to stop by her store. Mrs. Fields earned \$50 that day. By the time she opened her second store in 1979, her cookies were so popular that on opening day customers waited in a long line to buy them.<sup>214</sup>

- In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt and his wife, Edith, moved into the White House, where they had a difficult time feeding and clothing their large family on a Presidential salary. In particular, Mrs. Roosevelt’s wardrobe suffered, and one reporter wrote that she “dresses on three hundred dollars a year and looks it.” In particular, she wore the same dress to social function after social function. However, she was no dummy — she ordered the reporters who wrote about her to describe her dress as being different every time.<sup>215</sup>

- World-class gymnasts use their hands constantly and develop thick calluses. To keep his hands from cracking open, Kurt Thomas used to wear gloves to bed — the gloves were filled with cold cream. During the week before an important meet, he also asked his wife, Beth, to let him wash the dishes. By the way, many world-class men’s gymnasts are small. Mr. Thomas was 5-foot-5 and 126 pounds — small enough that his wife, Beth, could wear his clothes.<sup>216</sup>

- Thurgood Marshall was spoiled as a child. Once, he suffered a hernia, and he overheard the doctor tell his mother to keep him quiet and not let him cry. Young Thurgood decided to take advantage of the situation, so every time he wanted something he started to cry. That way, he got whatever he wanted. However, his mother grew tired of his behavior, so she tied a bandage tightly over his hernia, and then whipped him. He stopped taking advantage of the situation.<sup>217</sup>

- According to Betty White’s book *Here We Go Again: My Life in Television*, it was actually Merv Griffin’s former wife, Julann, who came up with the idea for the game show *Jeopardy*. On an airplane, Merv was trying to come up with an idea for a new game show, when Julann said, “Why don’t you switch it around? Give the answer and make them come up with the right question.”<sup>218</sup>

- A burglar broke into and entered the home of Cara Phillips. Unfortunately, she happened to be at home, so the burglar robbed her. However, the burglar had a really bad headache, so he demanded some aspirin. She gave him several Valium tablets instead of aspirin, and when the dosage put the burglar to sleep, she called the police, who arrested the burglar.<sup>219</sup>
- British columnist Michele Hanson has a friend named Brenda who recently became deaf in one ear. This is unfortunate, but it does have an advantage. Now, whenever a bore traps her, she can turn her deaf ear to the bore. As long as she occasionally says “yes” and nods, the bore will think she is listening to him — and yes, it is usually a him.<sup>220</sup>
- Quaker humorist Tom Mullen has an older brother named Frank, who lives in New York City. During strikes by the people who collect the garbage, Frank has discovered a creative way to get rid of his garbage. He gift wraps it, then leaves it out in plain view. Someone always comes along and steals it.<sup>221</sup>
- Marie Antoinette’s husband, Prince Louis, was dull. She used to set his clock ahead, so he would go to sleep earlier than usual, and she could slip away with her friends and party.<sup>222</sup>

### Revenge

- Mary Dugger, a lesbian of wit and intelligence, once stayed at a hotel for gay men in Manhattan. Unfortunately, the gay men were so disturbed by her presence that soon a concierge appeared, requesting that she vacate the premises quickly. Mary now had to do some creative problem-solving: How to get revenge? To get revenge, before she left, she bought an extra-large box of tampons, then hung a tampon on every doorknob in the hotel.<sup>223</sup>
- When gay comedian Bob Smith broke up with his long-time boyfriend, Tom, he took his revenge on the sofa bed that he and Tom had bought together. They had decided that Tom would take the sofa bed with him, and so Bob tried to eat all of his meals on it, dropping cracker crumbs everywhere and being careless with coffee and red wine.<sup>224</sup>

### Sex

- People in wheelchairs have sex, too. Julie Fernandez, who plays Brenda in the British TV series *The Office*, is in a wheelchair as a result of being born with very brittle bones. As a young teenager, she thought often about sex and wondered if her disability would ever allow her to have sex — perhaps sex for her would result in broken bones. Eventually, she found a boyfriend and they did have sex together — frequently and with passion. She says, “The first time was painful, but I needn’t have worried about breaking anything. From that moment on we were always bunking off for nookie. We used to sneak back to his house and be at it like rabbits. For me it was a whole new adventure.” Her acting skills came in handy during this youthful affair, which was carried on while she was at Treloar’s, which she identifies as “a specialist boarding school in Hampshire for pupils with physical disabilities.” The staff there kept an eye on the residents, especially when young males and young females spent time together, and one day while Julie and her boyfriend were having sex at Treloar’s, a knock sounded at the door. Julie says, “We went into panic overdrive.” She hurriedly dressed, while her naked boyfriend hid himself. She then hid his clothing and answered the door. The housemaster was showing a couple of guests around, and Julie acted so well that they never realized that a naked teenaged boy was hiding there.<sup>225</sup>

- In the age of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, people who are sexually active worry. One woman waits until a relationship reaches a certain point of intimacy, then playfully tells her boyfriend that soon they may be spending the night together. She also playfully lets him know that she expects him to use a condom. This works — her boyfriend comes prepared.<sup>226</sup>
- Mae West was once asked by an interviewer if she would tell her children, if she had any, everything. She replied, “I would tell my children just so much; then they’d have to find out for themselves. Finding out has its advantages, too.”<sup>227</sup>
- The 19<sup>th</sup>-century French actress known professionally by one name, Rachel, had many lovers. When she was asked why she didn’t marry, she replied, “I am very willing to have lodgers, but not proprietors.”<sup>228</sup>

## Thanksgiving

- Richard B. McKenzie, an economist, struggled with trying to lose a few pounds for years, and he finally succeeded through the use of economics. He had a friend sign a contract with him. According to the contract, if he did not reach his target weight in 10 weeks, Mr. McKenzie would pay his friend \$500 and she would spend the money on herself. Mr. McKenzie says, “While on my diet, I judged practically everything I ate in terms of how much it would ultimately cost me.” (He also joined a gym and walked farther, keeping in mind how much money he could lose if he did not do those things.) Because of the contract, Mr. McKenzie lost the remaining nine pounds he had been trying to lose and reached his target weight. In fact, he lost an additional three pounds as a safety margin before Thanksgiving just in case. When the 10 weeks were over, Mr. McKenzie had lost not just nine pounds — he had lost 14 pounds.<sup>229</sup>
- At Thanksgiving, Melvin Stone, the editor of the *Chicago Daily News*, was accustomed to give each of his workers a turkey. However, writer Eugene Field asked for a suit of clothes instead, so Mr. Stone gave him a convict’s suit of clothing, complete with stripes. Thereafter, whenever VIPs visited the newspaper offices, Mr. Field could be seen wearing a sad face and his convict’s suit — to which he had added a ball and chain.<sup>230</sup>

## Travel

- Charles Lindbergh and his wife, Anne Morrow, often flew together. For example, they were the first people to fly from New York to China using the Great Circle Route. Instead of flying across the Pacific Ocean, they flew over Canada, Alaska, the U.S.S.R., and Japan to China. Other people also shared their love of adventure. While getting ready to take off from an airport in Japan to return home to the United States, the Lindberghs discovered an 18-year-old male stowaway in the back of their plane.<sup>231</sup>
- For a while after automobiles were invented, few laws regulated such things as speed limits or the age of drivers. In an early Nancy Drew novel, *The Mystery at Lilac Inn*, published in 1930, the 16-year-old heroine drives around — safely and sensibly — in a bright blue roadster. (In 1930, South Carolina let 12-year-olds drive, and driver’s licenses weren’t required in 28 states.)<sup>232</sup>

## War

- During World War I, a German soldier named Max Kind was stationed in France. He took a shift late one night at a listening post outside of the barbed wire enclosing the German camp and waited eagerly for dawn to arrive so that he could read some letters that he had been given that night when it was too dark to read them. When dawn arrived, he eagerly read the letters, saving for last a letter that his mother had written. She had enclosed a photograph of herself, and while he looked at the photograph, he had a feeling that he was being watched. He looked up and saw a French soldier in his mid-to-late forties aiming a rifle straight at him. Mr. Kind completely froze and was unable to do anything to defend himself. Seeing that Mr. Kind was completely immobile, the French soldier lowered the rifle, gave Mr. Kind a wave of his hand, and left. Of course, Mr. Kind wondered why the French soldier did not kill him, and he believes, “Seeing me reading my letters from home — as he had probably realized — he too had perhaps been reminded of home: perhaps he had himself a brother, or even a son at the front. And so he thought it a shame in this mood and in this way to take the life of a man.”<sup>233</sup>

- During wars, many products are in short supply. Don Lanskov remembers a respectable woman running down the street during World War II and yelling some good news to her neighbors: “There’s toilet paper at the A&P!”<sup>234</sup>

## Weddings

- Rabbi Eizel Charif, the Rabbi of Slonim, felt that it was time for his daughter to get married. Therefore, he arranged to interview a group of young men to see if any of them was worthy to marry his daughter. Of course, he wanted a son-in-law who was learned in the Torah, so he posed a question to the young men to test their scholarship. Unfortunately, none of the young men was able to answer the question. However, one young man said, “I know that I failed your test, and so I won’t be marrying your daughter, but I would like to know the answer to the question so that I will know more about the Torah.” The good Rabbi smiled and said, “I want you to be my daughter’s husband. You who want to know more about the Torah for its own sake, and for no other reason, are the man I want to marry my daughter.”<sup>235</sup>

- Charles Lindbergh became an international celebrity after flying solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927, and his celebrity made his courtship of Anne Morrow difficult. They sometimes avoided reporters by wearing disguises or by climbing through cellar windows. When invitations to their wedding were sent out, the invitations did not mention the wedding, but stated merely that a reception would be held for Mr. Lindbergh’s mother. After the wedding was over, the Lindberghs left — with Anne lying on the floor of their car so reporters would not see her. To confuse the reporters, the party continued until the newly wedded couple was far away.<sup>236</sup>

- At a wedding, everyone was celebrating and was very happy. Rab Ashi felt that too much celebrating and happiness were present, and he astonished the people at the wedding when he deliberately broke a very expensive crystal goblet. This breaking of the glass is still customarily done in Jewish weddings. Its purpose is to remind us that we are mortal and life is fragile. Always, we should be aware of the World to Come.<sup>237</sup>

- Mauro Pirello of Vicenza, Italy, had a problem. He was supposed to get married, and he didn’t want to get married. How to solve that problem? He drove to a stranger’s home, climbed in through a window, made a lot of noise so the homeowner could hear him, and then left, leaving an easy-to-follow trail behind him. The police arrested him on his way to the altar, and he didn’t have to get married.<sup>238</sup>

- Bloopers sometimes appear in newspapers, as when the California *Jewish Voice* published this marriage announcement: “Miss Deborah Stein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Stein, was joined in marriage yesterday afternoon to Mr. Harry Salzman, at Temple Israel in Beverly Hills. Mr. Salzman is a well-known collector of gargoyles.”<sup>239</sup>
- Comedian Lewis Black got married in Rockville, Maryland. After the ceremony, he saw two police officers with a shackled prisoner in between them. Mr. Black told his brother, “When God sends a message, He certainly makes it loud and clear.” The marriage didn’t last even a year.<sup>240</sup>
- Very early in his ministry, the Reverend Ed Crandall was approached by a young couple who asked him to officiate at the wedding. He agreed, adding, “I will do my best, but remember, this is my very first wedding.” The groom replied, “That’s all right. This is my first time, too.”<sup>241</sup>
- William Bennett, the former Education Secretary, once attended a wedding where the bride and groom recited their own vows and declared that they would be together “as long as love shall last.” Mr. Bennett said, “I sent paper plates as my wedding gift.”<sup>242</sup>

## Work

- Artist John Buscema worked for a while creating comic books, but he began to work in advertising after comic books came under attack in the mid- and late 1950s as a result of a psychologist named Fredric Wertham, who published a book titled *Seduction of the Innocent* after noticing that the juvenile delinquents he worked with read comic books. (So did the author of this book, and so probably did the readers of this book.) A problem with Mr. Buscema’s advertising job was that he had to commute a long distance and work long hours, with the result that he seldom saw his son awake during his son’s first year of life. Mr. Buscema says that “I would get home, and he’d be asleep. I would leave, and he’d be asleep. The weekends would come around, and I could go home, but I’d be working. It was a real cutthroat business.” In 1966, his old boss at Marvel Comics, Stan Lee, called him with a job offer. Because Mr. Buscema could work at home and could see his son while his son was awake, he accepted the job offer and started working on such comics as *The Fantastic 4*, *Spider-Man*, *The Silver Surfer*, *Conan the Barbarian*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *The Mighty Thor*, and *The Avengers*. As a result, he earned a nickname: The Michelangelo of Comics.<sup>243</sup>
- In August of 2004, Jim Romenesko launched a website called <StarbucksGossip.com>. Once, he asked readers of the website to list the celebrities they had seen buying coffee at Starbucks. One barista who worked at a Starbucks located across the street from the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, replied that “75 percent of our business is NASA employees. When we get bored, we like to watch the NASA channel and spot customers.” Mr. Romenesko also occasionally does such things as start discussion threads; for example, he once asked, “How much should you tip for a cup of coffee?” Many customers were adamant that they should NOT tip for a cup of coffee, but many baristas were adamant that customers SHOULD tip for a cup of coffee. Mr. Romenesko says, “A few Starbucks baristas put people on notice that people who didn’t tip would get ‘decaffeinated’ — meaning, of course, the caffeinated drink they ordered would not have any caffeine in it.”<sup>244</sup>
- Some companies are gay-friendly. When Microsoft was recruiting Jon Henderson, a gay program manager now in its Developer Division, it asked, “Can I send your lover a bottle of

wine or some flowers to help you make your decision?” And when an executive at Xerox made anti-gay statements, the company did not force him to *take* diversity-training workshops — it forced him to *give* the diversity-training workshops.<sup>245</sup>

- Carl Jung was once asked by a patient to set up a session at a certain time. However, Dr. Jung replied that he did not have time to see him. Later, at the time the patient had asked for an appointment, he saw Dr. Jung relaxing on Lake Zurich. When he accused Dr. Jung of insincerity, Dr. Jung replied, “I really don’t have time to see you because I am keeping an appointment I have set up with myself. It is one of the most important appointments of my day.”<sup>246</sup>

- Mickey Mantle’s father worked in the zinc mines of Commerce, Oklahoma, and he wanted Mickey to escape that fate by playing baseball. When Mickey was one day old, his father put a baseball in his hand. When Mickey was four years old, his father put a bat in his hands. When Mickey was five years old, his father began to pitch curve balls to him. Mickey escaped the zinc mines and made a career out of playing for the New York Yankees.<sup>247</sup>

- Ed Charles played professional baseball, and he and his Miracle Mets won the World Series in 1969. After retiring from baseball, he worked as liaison with the board of education in New York City’s juvenile justice system. Sometimes, one of the troubled kids he worked with asked him why he was working there. He replied, “I’m here because you’re here.”<sup>248</sup>

- As head of Beech Aircraft Corporation, Olive Ann Beach used to fly flags outside her office door to let her employees know her mood. If she was in a very bad mood, she flew a black flag marked with the word “Woe.” If she was in a very good mood, she flew a royal blue flag decorated with a golden sun and the words “OH HAPPY DAY.”<sup>249</sup>

- As a young man, Bob Denver, who played Gilligan on *Gilligan’s Island*, worked at Yellowstone National Park in the grocery near Old Faithful. Every day, several tourists asked Mr. Denver when the geyser was due to go off. He stood it as long as he could, and then finally he told the tourists, “I’ll go and ask the park ranger when he’s going to turn it on.”<sup>250</sup>



## Appendix A: Bibliography

- Abrams, Dennis. *Barbara Park*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 2006.
- Algeranoff, H. *My Years With Pavlova*. London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1957.
- Black, Lewis. *Nothing Sacred*. New York: Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2005.
- Bockris, Victor, and Roberta Bayley. *Patti Smith: An Unauthorized Biography*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999.
- Brennan, Christine. *Inside Edge: A Revealing Journey into the Secret World of Figure Skating*. New York: Scribner, 1996.
- Brown, Susan. *Persona: Photographs by Susan Brown*. Interviews by Steven Reinberg. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1997.
- Brunsting, Bernard R. *Laugh!!! Your Health May Depend on It*. Columbus, GA: Quill Publications, 1995.
- Burke, John. *Rogue's Progress: The Fabulous Adventures of Wilson Mizner*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1975.
- Carpenter, Angelica Shirley, and Jean Shirley. *L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1992.
- Carpenter, Angelica Shirley, and Jean Shirley. *Robert Louis Stevenson: Finding Treasure Island*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1997.
- Carter, Judy. *The Homo Handbook*. New York: Fireside Books, 1996.
- Chadwick, Roxane. *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Pilot and Poet*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1987.
- Clercq, Tanaquil Le. *The Ballet Cook Book*. New York: Stein and Day, Publishers, 1966.
- Clower, Jerry. *Life Everlaugther: The Heart and Humor of Jerry Clower*. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 1987.
- Comaneci, Nadia. *Letters to a Young Gymnast*. New York: Basic Books, 2004.
- Conner, Bart. *Winning the Gold*. With Coach Paul Ziert. New York: Warner Books, Inc., 1985.
- Cowan, Lore and Maurice. *The Wit of the Jews*. Nashville, TN: Aurora Publishers, Limited, 1970.
- Cranston, Toller. *Zero Tolerance*. With Martha Lowder Kimball. Toronto, Canada: McClelland and Stewart, Inc., 1997.
- Danilova, Alexandra. *Choura: The Memoirs of Alexandra Danilova*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.
- Davis, Mary L. *Women Who Changed History: Five Famous Queens of Europe*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1974.
- DeCaro, Frank. *A Boy Named Phyllis*. New York: Viking, 1996.
- Denver, Bob. *Gilligan, Maynard and Me*. New York: Carol Publishing Group, 1993.
- Diebold, Reinhard, collector and editor. *The Book of Good Deeds: 1914-1918*. Translated by Hellmut and Letitia Lehmann-Haupt. New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1933.
- Dole, Bob. *Great Political Wit*. New York: Doubleday, 1998.
- Dole, Bob. *Great Presidential Wit*. New York: Scribner, 2001.

Domingo, Plácido. *My First Forty Years*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1983.

Drennan, Robert E., editor. *The Algonquin Wits*. New York: The Citadel Press, 1968.

Dugger, Mary. *The History of Lesbian Hair, and Other Tales of Bent Life in a Straight World*. New York: Doubleday, 1996.

Epstein, Lawrence J. *The Haunted Smile: The Story of Jewish Comedians in America*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2001.

Erskine, Carl. *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*. Champaign, IL: Sports Publishing, Inc., 2000.

Fine, Edith Hope. *Gary Paulsen: Author and Wilderness Adventurer*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Fleming, Peggy. *The Long Program*. With Peter Kaminsky. New York: Pocket Books, 1999.

Fonteyn, Margot. *Autobiography*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.

Ford, Corey. *And How Do We Feel This Morning?* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964.

Foster, Leila Merrell. *Benjamin Franklin: Founding Father and Inventor*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1997.

Fox, Grace. *Everyday Etiquette*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Direct, Inc., 1996.

Fox, Mem. *Dear Mem Fox, I Have Read All Your Books, Even the Pathetic Ones*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publisher, 1992.

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. *Lincoln's Birthday*. Hillside, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1990.

Galt, Margot Fortunato. *Up to the Plate: The All American Girls Professional Baseball League*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1995.

Garagiola, Joe. *It's Anybody's Ballgame*. New York: Jove Books, 1988.

Garbo. *The Complete Garbo Talks*. Columbus, OH: Big Breakfast Publishing, 1991.

Grenfell, Joyce. *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure*. London: Macdonald Futura Publishers, Ltd., 1976.

Hall, Marilyn, and Rabbi Jerome Cutler. *The Celebrity Kosher Cookbook*. Los Angeles, CA: J.P. Tarcher, Inc., 1975.

Hamilton, Sue. *John Buscema: Artist and Inker*. Edina, MN: ABDO Publishing Company, 2007.

Herda, D.J. *Thurgood Marshall: Civil Rights Champion*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1995.

Hollingsworth, Amy. *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers*. Nashville, TN: Integrity Publishers, 2005.

Howe, James. *Playing with Words*. Katonah, NY: Richard C. Owens Publishers, Inc., 1994.

Isaacs, Ronald H., and Kerry M. Olitzky. *Sacred Moments: Tales from the Jewish Life Cycle*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1995.

Ishizuka, Kathy. *Asian American Authors*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Jacobson, Steve. *Carrying Jackie's Torch: The Players Who Integrated Baseball — and America*. Chicago, IL: Lawrence Hill Books, 2007.

Jeffrey, Laura S. *Great American Businesswomen*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1996.

Johnson, Russell, and Steve Cox. *Here on Gilligan's Isle*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1993.

Joiner, Beth. *Gotta Dance!* New York: Vantage Press, 1985.

Josephson, Judith Pinkerton. *Nikki Giovanni: Poet of the People*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Kent, Allegra. *Once a Dancer . . .*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

Kistler, Darci. *Ballerina: My Story*. With Alicia Kistler. New York: Pocket Books, Inc., 1993.

Kovacs, Deborah, and James Preller. *Meet the Authors and Illustrators: Volume Two*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1993.

Laffey, Bruce. *Beatrice Lillie: The Funniest Woman in the World*. New York: Wynwood Press, 1989.

Lessa, Christina. *Women Who Win: Stories of Triumph in Sport and in Life*. New York: Universe Publishing, 1998.

Lisandrelli, Elaine Slivinski. *Maya Angelou: More Than a Poet*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1996.

Mandelbaum, Yitta Halberstam. *Holy Brother: Inspiring Stories and Enchanted Tales About Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1997.

Marx, Arthur. *Life With Groucho*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1954.

Marx, Arthur. *Son of Groucho*. New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1972.

Molen, Sam. *Take 2 and Hit to Right*. Philadelphia, PA: Dorrance and Company, 1959.

Mostel, Kate, and Madeline Gilford. *170 Years of Show Business*. With Jack Gilford and Zero Mostel. New York: Random House, 1978.

Mullen, Tom. *Living Longer and Other Sobering Possibilities*. Richmond, IN: Friends United Press, 1996.

Mullen, Tom. *Middle Age and Other Mixed Blessings*. Tarrytown, NY: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1991.

Murray, Jim. *The Best of Jim Murray*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1965.

Nader, Ralph. *The Seventeen Traditions*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 2007.

Newman, Danny. *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*. Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2006.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Alex and Friends: Animal Talk, Animal Thinking*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1998.

Perella, Marco. *Adventures of a No Name Actor*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2002.

Peters, Beth. *Pop Princesses: The Dish Behind Today's Hottest Teen Divas*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2000.

Pflaum, Rosalynd. *Marie Curie and Her Daughter Irene*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1993.

Pflueger, Lynda. *Thomas Nast: Political Cartoonist*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Phares, Ross. *Bible in Pocket, Gun in Hand: The Story of Frontier Religion*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1964.

Pike, Robert E. *Granite Laughter and Marble Tears*. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Daye Press, 1938.

Porter, Alyene. *Papa was a Preacher*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1944.

Raber, Thomas R. *Michael Jordan: Basketball Skywalker*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1997.

Randall, Jr., John Herman. *Plato: Dramatist of the Life of Reason*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1970.

Rekela, George. *Sports Great Anfernee Hardaway*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1996.

Reps, Paul, compiler. *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*. Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1957.

Richards, Dick, compiler. *The Wit of Peter Ustinov*. London: Leslie Frewin Publishers, Limited, 1969.

Richie, Donald. *Zen Inklings*. New York: John Weatherhill, Inc., 1982.

Roessel, Monty. *Kinaaldá: A Navajo Girl Grows Up*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1993.

Roessel, Monty. *Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1995.

Rosten, Leo. *People I Have Loved, Known or Admired*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1970.

Rowell, Edward K., editor. *Humor for Preaching and Teaching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.

Rowland, Walter. *Among the Great Masters of the Drama*. Boston, MA: Dana Estes and Company, 1903.

Samra, Cal and Rose, editors. *Holy Hilarity*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 1999.

Samra, Cal and Rose, editors. *More Holy Hilarity*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 1999.

Schafer, Kermit. *Kermit Schafer's Blunderful World of Bloopers*. New York: Bounty Books, 1973.

Schnakenberg, Robert E. *Cynthia Cooper*. Philadelphia, PA: Chelsea House, 2001.

Schoor, Gene. *Football's Greatest Coach: Vince Lombardi*. New York: Pocket Books, 1975.

Schulz, Charles M. *Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Me*. With R. Smith Kiliper. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1980.

Shephard, Marie Tennent. *Maria Montessori: Teacher of Teachers*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1996.

Shore, Nancy. *Amelia Earhart*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.

Signorile, Michelangelo. *Outing Yourself: How to Come Out as Lesbian or Gay to Your Family, Friends, and Coworkers*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995.

Sleator, William. *Oddballs*. New York: Dutton's Children's Books, 1993.

Smith, Bob. *Way to Go, Smith!* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1999.

Smith, H. Allen. *The Compleat Practical Joker*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, Inc., 1953.

Smith, H. Allen. *People Named Smith*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1950.

Sobol, Donald J., and Rose Sobol, *Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Strange But True Crimes*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1991.

Spalding, Henry D. *Jewish Laffs*. Middle Village, NY: Jonathan David Publishers, Inc., 1982.

Stanley, Phyllis M. *American Environmental Heroes*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 1996.

Stephens, Autumn. *Wild Women in the White House*. Berkeley, CA: Conari Press, 1997.

Sullivan, Michael J. *Sports Great Barry Bonds*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1995.

Thomas, Kurt, and Kent Hannon. *Kurt Thomas on Gymnastics*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1980.

Thornley, Stew. *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1998.

Treston, Kevin. *Five Dynamic Dimensions for Effective Teaching*. Mystic, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 1997.

Wallach, Eli. *The Good, the Bad, and Me: In My Anecdote*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc., 2005.

Warren, Roz, editor. *Revolutionary Laughter: The World of Women Comics*. Freedom, CA: The Crossing Press, 1995.

Waters, John. *Shock Value*. New York: Dell Publishing Company, Inc., 1981.

Watson, Richard. *The Philosopher's Diet: How to Lose Weight and Change the World*. Boston, MA: The Atlantic Monthly Press, 1985.

Weidt, Maryann N. *Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1994.

Weintraub, Joseph, editor. *The Wit and Wisdom of Mae West*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1967.

White, Betty. *Here We Go Again: My Life in Television*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

Whitman, Sylvia. *Get Up and Go! The History of American Road Travel*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1996.

Whitman, Sylvia. *V is for Victory*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Company, 1992.

Wilson, Suzan. *Stephen King: King of Thrillers and Horror*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publications, Inc., 2000.

Woughter, William. *All Preachers of Our God & King*. Wheaton, IL: Harold Shaw Publishers, 1997.

## **Appendix B: About the Author**

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a cry rang out, and on a hot summer night in 1954, Josephine, wife of Carl Bruce, gave birth to a boy — me. Unfortunately, this young married couple allowed Reuben Saturday, Josephine's brother, to name their first-born. Reuben, aka "The Joker," decided that Bruce was a nice name, so he decided to name me Bruce Bruce. I have gone by my middle name — David — ever since.

Being named Bruce David Bruce hasn't been all bad. Bank tellers remember me very quickly, so I don't often have to show an ID. It can be fun in charades, also. When I was a counselor as a teenager at Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw, Ohio, a fellow counselor gave the signs for "sounds like" and "two words," then she pointed to a bruise on her leg twice. Bruise Bruise? Oh yeah, Bruce Bruce is the answer!

Uncle Reuben, by the way, gave me a haircut when I was in kindergarten. He cut my hair short and shaved a small bald spot on the back of my head. My mother wouldn't let me go to school until the bald spot grew out again.

Of all my brothers and sisters (six in all), I am the only transplant to Athens, Ohio. I was born in Newark, Ohio, and have lived all around Southeastern Ohio. However, I moved to Athens to go to Ohio University and have never left.

At Ohio U, I never could make up my mind whether to major in English or Philosophy, so I got a bachelor's degree with a double major in both areas, then I added a Master of Arts degree in English and a Master of Arts degree in Philosophy. Yes, I have my MAMA degree.

Currently, and for a long time to come (I eat fruits and veggies), I am spending my retirement writing books such as *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*, *The Funniest People in Comedy*, *Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*, and *William Shakespeare's Hamlet: A Retelling in Prose*.

If all goes well, I will publish one or two books a year for the rest of my life. (On the other hand, a good way to make God laugh is to tell Her your plans.)

By the way, my sister Brenda Kennedy writes romances such as *A New Beginning* and *Shattered Dreams*.

## **Appendix C: Some Books by David Bruce**

### **Anecdote Collections**

*250 Anecdotes About Opera*

*250 Anecdotes About Religion*

*250 Anecdotes About Religion: Volume 2*

*250 Music Anecdotes*

*Be a Work of Art: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*

*The Coolest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in the Arts: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Coolest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes*

*Create, Then Take a Break: 250 Anecdotes*

*Don't Fear the Reaper: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Art: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Books, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Comedy: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Dance: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 4: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 5: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Families, Volume 6: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Music: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Music, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Music, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Neighborhoods: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Relationships: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Sports, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Television and Radio: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People in Theater: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Funniest People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 1: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Kindest People Who Do Good Deeds, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*Maximum Cool: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Movies: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Politics and History, Volume 3: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Religion: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People in Sports: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People Who Live Life: 250 Anecdotes*

*The Most Interesting People Who Live Life, Volume 2: 250 Anecdotes*

*Reality is Fabulous: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*

*Resist Psychic Death: 250 Anecdotes*

*Seize the Day: 250 Anecdotes and Stories*



## Notes

[ ← 1 ]

Source: Wendy Roby, "Feel riled? Get random!" *The Guardian*. 18 January 2008  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,2242747,00.html>>.

[ ← 2 ]

Source: Susan Brown, *Persona: Photographs by Susan Brown*, pp. 146-147.

[ ← 3 ]

Source: "Female-student kiss spurs debate at school." 20 November 2003 <CNN.com.>.

[ ← 4 ]

Source: Edith Hope Fine, *Gary Paulsen: Author and Wilderness Adventurer*, pp. 57-58.

[ ← 5 ]

Source: Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, *Alex and Friends: Animal Talk, Animal Thinking*, pp. 87-89.

[ ← 6 ]

Source: Jerry Clower, *Life Everlaughter*, p. 24.

[ ← 7 ]

Source: Marco Perella, *Adventures of a No Name Actor*, p. 119.

[ ← 8 ]

Source: Judith Pinkerton Josephson, *Nikki Giovanni: Poet of the People*, p. 102.



[ ← 9 ]

Source: Bob Dole, *Great Presidential Wit*, p. 56.

[ ← 10 ]

Source: H. Algeranoff, *My Years With Pavlova*, pp. 32-33.

[ ← 11 ]

Source: Walter Rowland, *Among the Great Masters of the Drama*, p. 83.

[ ← 12 ]

Source: James Howe, *Playing with Words*, pp. 5-6, 8-10, 23.

[ ← 13 ]

Source: Deborah Kovacs and James Preller, *Meet the Authors and Illustrators: Volume Two*, p. 110.

[ ← 14 ]

Source: Angelica Shirley Carpenter and Jean Shirley, *Robert Louis Stevenson: Finding Treasure Island*, pp. 58-59.

[ ← 15 ]

Source: Kermit Schafer, *Kermit Schafer's Blunderful World of Bloopers*, p. 12.

[ ← 16 ]

Source: Jim Murray, *The Best of Jim Murray*, p. 106.



[ ← 17 ]

Source: Stew Thornley, *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*, pp. 13, 16.

[ ← 18 ]

Source: Charles M. Schulz, *Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Me*, pp. 42, 56.

[ ← 19 ]

Source: Nadia Comaneci, *Letters to a Young Gymnast*, pp. 9-10. This anecdote also appears in my book *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*.

[ ← 20 ]

Source: Bernard R. Brunsting, *Laugh!!! Your Health May Depend on It*, p. 26.

[ ← 21 ]

Source: Tanaquil Le Clercq, *The Ballet Cook Book*, pp. 132-133.

[ ← 22 ]

Source: Mem Fox, *Dear Mem Fox, I Have Read All Your Books, Even the Pathetic Ones*, pp. 17, 26.

[ ← 23 ]

Source: Bart Conner, *Winning the Gold*, pp. 8-9.

[ ← 24 ]

Source: Monty Roessel, *Kinaaldá: A Navajo Girl Grows Up*, pp. 9, 25.



[ ← 25 ]

Source: Victor Bockris and Roberta Bayley, *Patti Smith: An Unauthorized Biography*, p. 25.

[ ← 26 ]

Source: Phyllis M. Stanley, *American Environmental Heroes*, p. 48.

[ ← 27 ]

Source: Beth Joiner, *Gotta Dance!*, p. 3.

[ ← 28 ]

Source: John Waters, *Shock Value*, p. 30.

[ ← 29 ]

Source: Rosalynd Pflaum, *Marie Curie and Her Daughter Irene*, p. 57.

[ ← 30 ]

Source: Suzan Wilson, *Stephen King: King of Thrillers and Horror*, pp. 17-18.

[ ← 31 ]

Source: Danny Newman, *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*, pp. 5-6.

[ ← 32 ]

Source: Danny Newman, *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*, pp. 72-73.



[ ← 33 ]

Source: Christina Lessa, *Women Who Win*, p. 85.

[ ← 34 ]

Source: Alyene Porter, *Papa was a Preacher*, pp. 16-17.

[ ← 35 ]

Source: Joyce Grenfell, *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure*, p. 32.

[ ← 36 ]

Source: Allegra Kent, *Once a Dancer...*, p. 13.

[ ← 37 ]

Source: Alexandra Danilova, *Choura*, p. 6.

[ ← 38 ]

Source: Dennis Brindell Fradin, *Lincoln's Birthday*, p. 26.

[ ← 39 ]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *People Named Smith*, p. 94.

[ ← 40 ]

Source: Leila Merrell Foster, *Benjamin Franklin: Founding Father and Inventor*, p. 18.



[ ← 41 ]

Source: Ralph Nader, *The Seventeen Traditions*, p. 29.

[ ← 42 ]

Source: Thomas R. Raber, *Michael Jordan: Basketball Skywalker*, p. 13.

[ ← 43 ]

Source: Kathy Ishizuka, *Asian American Authors*, p. 79.

[ ← 44 ]

Source: Angelica Shirley Carpenter and Jean Shirley, *L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz*, p. 59.

[ ← 45 ]

Source: Autumn Stephens, *Wild Women in the White House*, p. 164.

[ ← 46 ]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *More Holy Hilarity*, p. 37.

[ ← 47 ]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *Holy Hilarity*, p. 180.

[ ← 48 ]

Source: H. Algeranoff, *My Years With Pavlova*, p. 134.



[ ← 49 ]

Source: Nancy Shore, *Amelia Earhart*, p. 24.

[ ← 50 ]

Source: Frank DeCaro, *A Boy Named Phyllis*, p. 63.

[ ← 51 ]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *The Compleat Practical Joker*, p. 279.

[ ← 52 ]

Source: Peggy Fleming, *The Long Program*, pp. 140-141.

[ ← 53 ]

Source: Roger Ebert, "Anarchy in the U.K.: My life with Sid Vicious." *Chicago Sun-Times*. 10 February 1986 <<http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19860210/PEOPLE/362363802>>.

[ ← 54 ]

Source: Christine Brennan, *Inside Edge*, pp. 208-209.

[ ← 55 ]

Source: Dennis Abrams, *Barbara Park*, p. 84.

[ ← 56 ]

Source: Margot Fortunato Galt, *Up to the Plate: The All American Girls Professional Baseball League*, p. 33.



[ ← 57 ]

Source: Dick Richards, compiler, *The Wit of Peter Ustinov*, p. 53.

[ ← 58 ]

Source: Alyene Porter, *Papa was a Preacher*, pp. 18-19.

[ ← 59 ]

Source: Beth Peters, *Pop Princesses: The Dish Behind Today's Hottest Teen Divas*, p. 65.

[ ← 60 ]

Source: Judy Carter, *The Homo Handbook*, p. 81.

[ ← 61 ]

Source: Robert E. Pike, *Granite Laughter and Marble Tears*, p. 70.

[ ← 62 ]

Source: John Burke, *Rogue's Progress: The Fabulous Adventures of Wilson Mizner*, p. 277.

[ ← 63 ]

Source: Lore and Maurice Cowan, *The Wit of the Jews*, p. 43.

[ ← 64 ]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *Holy Hilarity*, p. 111.



[ ← 65 ]

Source: Thomas Bartlett, "Your (Lame) Slogan Here." *Christian Science Monitor*. 23 November 2007 <<http://chronicle.com/temp/reprint.php?id=zxl637vqlkvf9dmgj0g301fwn0bm2x32>>. Also: "Ohio University." <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio\\_University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_University)>. Accessed 22 November 2007.

[ ← 66 ]

Source: Monty Roessel, *Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave*, pp. 6-7.

[ ← 67 ]

Source: Eli Wallach, *The Good, the Bad, and Me: In My Anecdote*, pp. 31, 46.

[ ← 68 ]

Source: Margot Fonteyn, *Autobiography*, p. 219.

[ ← 69 ]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *People Named Smith*, p. 92.

[ ← 70 ]

Source: Lewis Black, *Nothing Sacred*, p. 40.

[ ← 71 ]

Source: Ralph Nader, *The Seventeen Traditions*, p. 47.

[ ← 72 ]

Source: Paul Reps, *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*, pp. 39-40.



[ ← 73 ]

Source: Carl Erskine, *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*, p. 182.

[ ← 74 ]

Source: Phyllis M. Stanley, *American Environmental Heroes*, p. 26.

[ ← 75 ]

Source: Paul Reps, *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*, p. 49.

[ ← 76 ]

Source: Leo Rosten, *People I Have Loved, Known or Admired*, p. 91.

[ ← 77 ]

Source: Marie Tennent Shephard, *Maria Montessori: Teacher of Teachers*, p. 22.

[ ← 78 ]

Source: Angelica Shirley Carpenter and Jean Shirley, *L. Frank Baum: Royal Historian of Oz*, pp. 43-44.

[ ← 79 ]

Source: Gene Schoor, *Football's Greatest Coach: Vince Lombardi*, pp. 198-199.

[ ← 80 ]

Source: Elaine Slivinski Lisandrelli, *Maya Angelou: More Than a Poet*, p. 29.



[ ← 81 ]

Source: Monty Roessel, *Songs from the Loom: A Navajo Girl Learns to Weave*, p. 23.

[ ← 82 ]

Source: Leo Rosten, *People I Have Loved, Known or Admired*, p. 280.

[ ← 83 ]

Source: Ellen Goodman, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." 9 December 2005  
<<http://www.workingforchange.com/article.cfm?itemid=20044>>.

[ ← 84 ]

Source: Arthur Marx, *Son of Groucho*, p. 27.

[ ← 85 ]

Source: Alexandra Danilova, *Choura*, p. 37.

[ ← 86 ]

Source: Rosalynd Pflaum, *Marie Curie and Her Daughter Irene*, p. 66.

[ ← 87 ]

Source: Victor Bockris and Roberta Bayley, *Patti Smith: An Unauthorized Biography*, p. 27.

[ ← 88 ]

Source: Dick Richards, compiler, *The Wit of Peter Ustinov*, p. 11.



[ ← 89 ]

Source: Gene Schoor, *Football's Greatest Coach: Vince Lombardi*, pp. 48-49.

[ ← 90 ]

Source: Charles M. Schulz, *Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Me*, p. 55.

[ ← 91 ]

Source: Steve Jacobson, *Carrying Jackie's Torch*, p. 248.

[ ← 92 ]

Source: Nadia Comaneci, *Letters to a Young Gymnast*, pp. 10-11. This anecdote also appears in my book *Nadia Comaneci: Perfect 10*.

[ ← 93 ]

Source: Bob Dole, *Great Political Wit*, p. 30.

[ ← 94 ]

Source: Yitta Halberstam Mandelbaum, *Holy Brother*, pp. xiv-xv.

[ ← 95 ]

Source: Marie Tennent Shephard, *Maria Montessori: Teacher of Teachers*, p. 42.

[ ← 96 ]

Source: D. J. Herda, *Thurgood Marshall: Civil Rights Champion*, p. 9.



[ ← 97 ]

Source: Thomas R. Raber, *Michael Jordan: Basketball Skywalker*, p. 14.

[ ← 98 ]

Source: Tom Mullen, *Living Longer and Other Sobering Possibilities*, p. 32.

[ ← 99 ]

Source: Bruce Laffey, *Beatrice Lillie*, p. 92.

[ ← 100 ]

Source: Toller Cranston, *Zero Tolerance*, pp. 297-298.

[ ← 101 ]

Source: Edith Hope Fine, *Gary Paulsen: Author and Wilderness Adventurer*, pp. 64-66.

[ ← 102 ]

Source: Allegra Kent, *Once a Dancer...*, p. 252.

[ ← 103 ]

Source: Jerry Clower, *Life Everlaughter*, pp. 48-50.

[ ← 104 ]

Source: Marilyn Hall and Rabbi Jerome Cutler, *The Celebrity Kosher Cookbook*, p. 133.



[ ← 105 ]

Source: Richard Watson, *The Philosopher's Diet*, p. 48.

[ ← 106 ]

Source: Edward K. Rowell, editor, *Humor for Preaching and Teaching*, p. 78.

[ ← 107 ]

Source: Judith Pinkerton Josephson, *Nikki Giovanni: Poet of the People*, p. 106.

[ ← 108 ]

Roger Ebert, "Millions (A Lottery Story)." *Chicago Sun-Times*. 10 January 2008

<<http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080110/REVIEWS/801100308>>.

[ ← 109 ]

Source: Maryann N. Weidt, *Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss*, pp. 39-40.

[ ← 110 ]

Source: Donald Richie, *Zen Inkings*, p. 126.

[ ← 111 ]

Source: Bruce Laffey, *Beatrice Lillie*, p. 13.

[ ← 112 ]

Source: Mike Meyer, "Zoroaster's Guide to Bar Fighting." *The Portland Mercury*. 7-13 February 2008  
<<http://www.portlandmercury.com/portland/Content?oid=538875&category=22153>>.



[ ← 113 ]

Source: Robert E. Drennan, ed., *The Algonquin Wits*, p. 108.

[ ← 114 ]

Source: Carl Erskine, *Carl Erskine's Tales from the Dodger Dugout*, pp. 225-226.

[ ← 115 ]

Source: Bart Conner, *Winning the Gold*, p. 15.

[ ← 116 ]

Source: Susan Brown, *Persona: Photographs by Susan Brown*, pp. 44-45.

[ ← 117 ]

Source: "A Gay Valentine's Day. 13 February 2008  
<<http://www.afterelton.com/people/2008/2/valentinesday>>.

[ ← 118 ]

Source: Garbo, *The Complete Garbo Talks*, pp. 83-84.

[ ← 119 ]

Source: Michelangelo Signorile, *Outing Yourself*, pp. 100-101.

[ ← 120 ]

Source: Kathy Belge, "Can't Keep Melissa Etheridge Down." *Curve Magazine* 17 #10. January 2008  
<<http://www.curvemag.com/Detailed/901.html>>.



[ ← 121 ]

Source: Russell Johnson and Steve Cox, *Here on Gilligan's Isle*, pp. 185, 187.

[ ← 122 ]

Source: Garbo, *The Complete Garbo Talks*, p. 81.

[ ← 123 ]

Source: Roz Warren, editor, *Revolutionary Laughter*, p. 79.

[ ← 124 ]

Source: Valerie Grove, "I appreciate your gift more than I can say." *The Times*. 27 December 2007  
<[http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/women/the\\_way\\_we\\_live/article3097017.ece](http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article3097017.ece)>.

[ ← 125 ]

Source: Darci Kistler, *Ballerina: My Story*, pp. 24-25.

[ ← 126 ]

Source: Frank DeCaro, *A Boy Named Phyllis*, p. 6.

[ ← 127 ]

Source: Yitta Halberstam Mandelbaum, *Holy Brother*, pp. 22-24.

[ ← 128 ]

Source: Bob Denver, *Gilligan, Maynard and Me*, p. 62.



[ ← 129 ]

Source: Reinhard Diebold, collector and editor, *The Book of Good Deeds: 1914-1918*, pp. 93-94.

[ ← 130 ]

Source: Dennis Brindell Fradin, *Lincoln's Birthday*, pp. 18, 24.

[ ← 131 ]

Source: Richard Watson, *The Philosopher's Diet*, pp. 82, 84.

[ ← 132 ]

Source: Michael J. Sullivan, *Sports Great Barry Bonds*, pp. 17, 19, 21, 51.

[ ← 133 ]

Source: George Rekela, *Sports Great Anfernee Hardaway*, p. 12.

[ ← 134 ]

Source: Grace Fox, *Everyday Etiquette*, p. 19.

[ ← 135 ]

Source: Cal and Rose Samra, *More Holy Hilarity*, pp. 44-45.

[ ← 136 ]

Source: Amy Hollingsworth, *The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers*, p. xxvi.



[ ← 137 ]

Source: Becca Tucker, "THE DUDE OF LIFE." *New York Press*. February 2008  
<<http://nypress.com/21/6/news&columns/feature2.cfm>>.

[ ← 138 ]

Source: Eli Wallach, *The Good, the Bad, and Me: In My Anecdote*, pp. 240, 283-284.

[ ← 139 ]

Source: Nancy Shore, *Amelia Earhart*, p. 67.

[ ← 140 ]

Source: Russell Johnson and Steve Cox, *Here on Gilligan's Isle*, p. 123.

[ ← 141 ]

Source: Sylvia Whitman, *Get Up and Go! The History of American Road Travel*, pp. 43-46.

[ ← 142 ]

Source: Betty White, *Here We Go Again*, p. 48.

[ ← 143 ]

Source: Robert E. Drennan, ed., *The Algonquin Wits*, pp. 107-108.

[ ← 144 ]

Source: Sam Molen, *Take 2 and Hit to Right*, p. 145.



[ ← 145 ]

Source: Henry D. Spalding, *Jewish Laifs*, p. 90.

[ ← 146 ]

Source: Leila Merrell Foster, *Benjamin Franklin: Founding Father and Inventor*, pp. 29-30, 50-51.

[ ← 147 ]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *It's Anybody's Ballgame*, p. 193.

[ ← 148 ]

Source: Arthur Marx, *Son of Groucho*, p. 98.

[ ← 149 ]

Source: Kate Mostel and Madeline Gilford, *170 Years of Show Business*, p. 151.

[ ← 150 ]

Source: Bernard R. Brunsting, *Laugh!!! Your Health May Depend on It*, p. 10.

[ ← 151 ]

Source: Mary L. Davis, *Women Who Changed History: Five Famous Queens of Europe*, p. 20.

[ ← 152 ]

Source: Tanaquil Le Clercq, *The Ballet Cook Book*, p. 136.



[ ← 153 ]

Source: Tom Mullen, *Middle Age and Other Mixed Blessings*, p. 15.

[ ← 154 ]

Source: Beth Quinn, "Yikes! The dog's eardo is a big doodad!" *The Times Herald Record*. 27 January 2008 <<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080127/NEWS/801280334/-1/NEWS0206>>.

[ ← 155 ]

Source: William Sleator, *Oddballs*, pp. 12-14.

[ ← 156 ]

Source: Arthur Marx, *Life With Groucho*, p. 39.

[ ← 157 ]

Source: Mem Fox, *Dear Mem Fox, I Have Read All Your Books, Even the Pathetic Ones*, pp. 7, 12.

[ ← 158 ]

Source: Robert E. Pike, *Granite Laughter and Marble Tears*, p. 52.

[ ← 159 ]

Source: Bob Dole, *Great Political Wit*, p. 4

[ ← 160 ]

Source: Zoe Williams, "Anti-natal." *The Guardian*. 8 February 2008  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,2254430,00.html>>.



[ ← 161 ]

Source: Roz Warren, editor, *Revolutionary Laughter*, pp. 130-131.

[ ← 162 ]

Source: Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, *Alex and Friends: Animal Talk, Animal Thinking*, p. 26.

[ ← 163 ]

Source: Marilyn Hall and Rabbi Jerome Cutler, *The Celebrity Kosher Cookbook*, p. 91.

[ ← 164 ]

Source: Donald Richie, *Zen Inkings*, pp. 124-125.

[ ← 165 ]

Source: Tom Mullen, *Living Longer and Other Sobering Possibilities*, pp. 39-40.

[ ← 166 ]

Source: Kermit Schafer, *Kermit Schafer's Blunderful World of Bloopers*, p. 48.

[ ← 167 ]

Source: Maryann N. Weidt, *Oh, the Places He Went: A Story About Dr. Seuss*, pp. 38-39.

[ ← 168 ]

Source: Arthur Marx, *Life With Groucho*, pp. 202-205.



[ ← 169 ]

Source: Andrew Tobias, "Daily Column." 1 February 2008  
<http://www.andrewtobias.com/newcolumns/080201.html>.

[ ← 170 ]

Source: Sam Molen, *Take 2 and Hit to Right*, p. 106.

[ ← 171 ]

Source: John Burke, *Rogue's Progress: The Fabulous Adventures of Wilson Mizner*, p. 240.

[ ← 172 ]

Source: Kate Mostel and Madeline Gilford, *170 Years of Show Business*, pp. 6-7.

[ ← 173 ]

Source: Kathy Ishizuka, *Asian American Authors*, pp. 16-17.

[ ← 174 ]

Source: A Lifetime *Intimate Portrait* program featuring Carol Burnett.

[ ← 175 ]

Source: The documentary *The Marx Brothers in a Nutshell*.

[ ← 176 ]

Source: Robert E. Schnakenberg, *Cynthia Cooper*, pp. 18-19, 38-39, 62.



[ ← 177 ]

Source: Margot Fonteyn, *Autobiography*, p. 218.

[ ← 178 ]

Source: Christine Brennan, *Inside Edge*, p. 173.

[ ← 179 ]

Source: Sylvia Whitman, *V is for Victory*, p. 24.

[ ← 180 ]

Source: Lawrence J. Epstein, *The Haunted Smile*, p. 16.

[ ← 181 ]

Source: Darci Kistler, *Ballerina: My Story*, pp. 29-30.

[ ← 182 ]

Source: Angelica Shirley Carpenter and Jean Shirley, *Robert Louis Stevenson: Finding Treasure Island*, p. 79.

[ ← 183 ]

Source: John Waters, *Shock Value*, p. 115.

[ ← 184 ]

Source: Bob Smith, *Way to Go, Smith!*, pp. 44-45.



[ ← 185 ]

Source: Beth Joiner, *Gotta Dance!*, p. 10.

[ ← 186 ]

Source: Margot Fortunato Galt, *Up to the Plate: The All American Girls Professional Baseball League*, pp. 72-73.

[ ← 187 ]

Source: Suzan Wilson, *Stephen King: King of Thrillers and Horror*, pp. 21-22.

[ ← 188 ]

Source: Christina Lessa, *Women Who Win*, p. 25.

[ ← 189 ]

Source: Plácido Domingo, *My First Forty Years*, photo section between pp. 54 and 55.

[ ← 190 ]

Source: Stew Thornley, *Alex Rodriguez: Slugging Shortstop*, p. 14.

[ ← 191 ]

Source: Dennis Abrams, *Barbara Park*, p. 21.

[ ← 192 ]

Source: William Sleator, *Oddballs*, pp. 10-12.



[ ← 193 ]

Source: Plácido Domingo, *My First Forty Years*, p. 134.

[ ← 194 ]

Source: Beth Peters, *Pop Princesses: The Dish Behind Today's Hottest Teen Divas*, pp. 6-8.

[ ← 195 ]

Source: Joyce Grenfell, *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure*, pp. 159-160.

[ ← 196 ]

Source: Patrick Barkham, "It's never been easier to change your name." *The Guardian*. 16 January 2008  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,2241295,00.html>>.

[ ← 197 ]

Source: Joe Garagiola, *It's Anybody's Ballgame*, p. 181.

[ ← 198 ]

Source: Elaine Slivinski Lisandrelli, *Maya Angelou: More Than a Poet*, p. 72.

[ ← 199 ]

Source: John Herman Randall, Jr., *Plato: Dramatist of the Life of Reason*, pp. 18-19.

[ ← 200 ]

Source: Marco Perella, *Adventures of a No Name Actor*, p. 159.



[ ← 201 ]

Source: Deborah Kovacs and James Preller, *Meet the Authors and Illustrators: Volume Two*, pp. 54-55.

[ ← 202 ]

Source: Bob Dole, *Great Presidential Wit*, p. 97.

[ ← 203 ]

Source: Ross Phares, *Bible in Pocket, Gun in Hand*, p. 152.

[ ← 204 ]

Source: Corey Ford, *And How Do We Feel This Morning?* The pages of this book are unnumbered. The Benchley anecdote appears in the Preface, and the guppies anecdote appears in Chapter 1.

[ ← 205 ]

Source: Toller Cranston, *Zero Tolerance*, pp. 208-209.

[ ← 206 ]

Source: Tony Elliott, "I think he'd rather not have been a clown." *The Guardian*. 1 February 2008  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/feb/01/television.relationships>>.

[ ← 207 ]

Source: Lynda Pflueger, *Thomas Nast: Political Cartoonist*, p. 96.

[ ← 208 ]

Source: Walter Rowland, *Among the Great Masters of the Drama*, pp. 39-40.



[ ← 209 ]

Source: William Woughter, *All Preachers of Our God & King*, pp. 13-14.

[ ← 210 ]

Source: Lynda Pflueger, *Thomas Nast: Political Cartoonist*, pp. 96-97.

[ ← 211 ]

Lorraine Carpenter, "Gonna Make You Sweater." *Montreal Mirror*. 7 February 2008  
<http://www.montrealmirror.com/2008/020708/music3.html>.

[ ← 212 ]

Source: Ross Phares, *Bible in Pocket, Gun in Hand*, pp. 23-24.

[ ← 213 ]

Source: Michelangelo Signorile, *Outing Yourself*, pp. 148-149.

[ ← 214 ]

Source: Laura S. Jeffrey, *Great American Businesswomen*, p. 97.

[ ← 215 ]

Source: Autumn Stephens, *Wild Women in the White House*, p. 58.

[ ← 216 ]

Source: Kurt Thomas and Kent Hannon, *Kurt Thomas on Gymnastics*, pp. 20, 48.



[ ← 217 ]

Source: D. J. Herda, *Thurgood Marshall: Civil Rights Champion*, p. 11.

[ ← 218 ]

Source: Betty White, *Here We Go Again*, p. 93.

[ ← 219 ]

Source: Donald J. Sobol and Rose Sobol, *Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Strange But True Crimes*, p. 46.

[ ← 220 ]

Source: Michele Hanson, "The day my friend Rosemary offered a bed to a frozen young homeless woman ..." *The Guardian*. 13 November 2007  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/story/0,,2210106,00.html>>.

[ ← 221 ]

Source: Tom Mullen, *Middle Age and Other Mixed Blessings*, p. 79.

[ ← 222 ]

Source: Mary L. Davis, *Women Who Changed History: Five Famous Queens of Europe*, pp. 65, 67.

[ ← 223 ]

Source: Mary Dugger, *The History of Lesbian Hair*, pp. 68-69.

[ ← 224 ]

Source: Bob Smith, *Way to Go, Smith!*, p. 36.



[ ← 225 ]

Source: Julie Fernandez, "Sex on wheels." *The Guardian*. 27 November 2007  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2007/nov/27/disability.health>>.

[ ← 226 ]

Source: Grace Fox, *Everyday Etiquette*, pp. 53-54.

[ ← 227 ]

Source: Joseph Weintraub, editor, *The Wit and Wisdom of Mae West*, p. 91.

[ ← 228 ]

Source: Lore and Maurice Cowan, *The Wit of the Jews*, p. 99.

[ ← 229 ]

Source: Richard B. McKenzie, "Dieting for Dollars." *Wall Street Journal*. 4 January 2008  
<<http://opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110011081>>.

[ ← 230 ]

Source: H. Allen Smith, *The Compleat Practical Joker*, p. 258.

[ ← 231 ]

Source: Roxane Chadwick, *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Pilot and Poet*, pp. 25, 28.

[ ← 232 ]

Source: Sylvia Whitman, *Get Up and Go! The History of American Road Travel*, p. 65.



[ ← 233 ]

Source: Reinhard Diebold, collector and editor, *The Book of Good Deeds: 1914-1918*, pp. 75-77.

[ ← 234 ]

Source: Sylvia Whitman, *V is for Victory*, p. 34.

[ ← 235 ]

Source: Ronald H. Isaacs and Kerry M. Olitzky, *Sacred Moments: Tales from the Jewish Life Cycle*, p. 91.

[ ← 236 ]

Source: Roxane Chadwick, *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Pilot and Poet*, pp. 16, 18-19.

[ ← 237 ]

Source: Ronald H. Isaacs and Kerry M. Olitzky, *Sacred Moments: Tales from the Jewish Life Cycle*, p. 99.

[ ← 238 ]

Source: Donald J. Sobol and Rose Sobol, *Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Strange But True Crimes*, p. 7.

[ ← 239 ]

Source: Henry D. Spalding, *Jewish Lafts*, p. 6.

[ ← 240 ]

Source: Lewis Black, *Nothing Sacred*, p. 201.



[ ← 241 ]

Source: William Woughter, *All Preachers of Our God & King*, p. 26.

[ ← 242 ]

Source: Edward K. Rowell, editor, *Humor for Preaching and Teaching*, p. 184.

[ ← 243 ]

Source: Sue Hamilton, *John Buscema: Artist and Inker*, pp. 14-18, 28.

[ ← 244 ]

Source: Melissa Allison, "Pouring out a strong cup of Starbucks gossip." *The Seattle Times*. 11 January 2008 <<http://www.popmatters.com/pm/news/article/52998/pouring-out-a-strong-cup-of-starbucks-gossip/>>.

[ ← 245 ]

Source: Judy Carter, *The Homo Handbook*, pp. 170-171.

[ ← 246 ]

Source: Kevin Treston, *Five Dynamic Dimensions for Effective Teaching*, pp. 62-63.

[ ← 247 ]

Source: Jim Murray, *The Best of Jim Murray*, p. 142.

[ ← 248 ]

Source: Steve Jacobson, *Carrying Jackie's Torch*, p. 42.



[ ← 249 ]

Source: Laura S. Jeffrey, *Great American Businesswomen*, p. 34.

[ ← 250 ]

Source: Bob Denver, *Gilligan, Maynard and Me*, p. 5.