

**The Wit and Wisdom  
of  
John Francis Freeman**



**Excerpts of letters  
1938-1950**

**Dear Betty,**

4-1-38 I waited a whole week to hear from you, wondering how you were and conjuring all sorts of things. And lo and behold we get a letter written with a ten penny nail. It might have been written in one of the dead languages but we were glad to get it anyway. Ruth says you always were good at dramatics. So I always believe in starting at the bottom. Being a stage hand is a good beginning.

**There is no news, it isn't out yet and when it gets out, it isn't news.**



9-17-38 My Dear Child, We are not a very demonstrative family, but we are all proud of our problem child. When you get as old as your old dad, or as old as your Grandma, you will look back (on this) as one of your adventures. More power to you. The sky's the limit. It is needless to say, that we miss you. You will say this is somewhat subtle. But Whimpy was into see me. I asked her where Betty was and she looked up and I saw two salty tears course down her face and she went away to think it over. Of course Jerry and Dopey are not quite so sentimental.

Helen is taking up music. For what I don't know. She has no ear for the higher aspects of the art. When I sing my theme song in the morning she looks at me with a look of disgust. That only goes to show her lack of appreciation! Ruth has just arrived and you know we all have to scramble. That is what you get for having a disciplinarian in the family. However, I got even. I cooked up a mess that will fix her up.

11-4-? Helen is doing the washing! It is very cold in the house, but hope to get six tons of coal next week. John has swollen tooth and Ruth has the hiebie-jiebies What a family!

12-7-38 We are all busy. Dad washing dishes. Dad making fires. Dad being Santa Claus.

2-24-39 Your pictures just arrived. You could not have pleased me more with anything else. I shall have it framed and placed in a prominent position. I note that you want dish towels. That leads to the proposition that you have dirty dishes and that must have something to dirty the So count your calories one by one and



someday you will be as robust as your baby sister. We will send a package when and how this busy family get around to it. Have just received a fruit cake from Eagle friends. It seems that I did something for them in the dim past. What it was I don't know. However it put me in mind of the Bible saying about bread cast upon the waters comes back after many days, and lo and behold I get cake! Jeanette writes that she is going to be in a play for the Grange! The Grange being a farmer outfit I suppose she is starting from the ground up! ...Get one hot meal a day! Get plenty of sleep! And good marks! And your old dad will be well pleased.

3-10-39 Whew! What a letter! It was like a continued story! That is the way I like you to be. If we can't get enthused about the things that are happening we have gone to seed. I thought for a long time that the farmers should work out their own salvation. As in everything else people have to make their own decisions, the government can't do it for them. I am looking to you to put the Freeman's on the map. Get all you can out of your studies and don't be afraid to ask questions. Well, your old Dad has done the shopping, cooked the supper and now to see if Willis Sharpe Kilmer wants my services.

3-17-39 Ruth had a birthday today. She got lots of cards and a box of gardenias from California. They came by air mail and were as fresh as if they were just picked.  
*(ed.: from Aunt Betty?)*



3-24-39 (from Helen) This is a rush affair! Pa comes plowing in at five o'clock and tells me to write a letter in 15 minutes. Now, you know how slow this brain of mine works, so don't be surprised at what you see! It seems Dad wants to send \$ and not alone, so that's where I come in. He says that I am writing for him, cause he hasn't time to write—household duties, you know.

Guess what! Your father got 5 days in this week! Wow! Last night I said "what are you going to have



for supper." Says he—"I'm going to eat with you." Boy, I almost fell over. I loaded him with questions, and the answers gave me courage to ask for a spring coat, \$5 at Sears. Tweed Princess. A hope-a-hope.

Well, Billy is still a problem! For a day or two, I thought I was getting ahead, but then Jane Reynolds, a girl with a "reputation" asked him to go to a party with her—and they weren't even introduced! She introduced herself. But Pauline Costello said Jane he wouldn't play any kissing games, and just sat around. But still, Jane's nuts about him and hangs around all his classes. No, Bud doesn't give me a thrill anymore. Gosh, to think it was once "undying love" (for me).... We had a peach of an AM assembly this week—variety. Funny and foolish and swell. Besides a lot of other things, Danny Fusco and his Jivecats—boy they are marvelous! You feel like passing out when you hear him! Not too hot but what rhythm! Boy I went around expostulating the rest of the day!

Dad says put yours truly comma—he's going to work. ...Darn, gotta go, just getting in mood of things! - Hel



4-28-39 Have been busy all day. Went up to see Grandma. Made a meatloaf and macaroni etc.

When in the course of human events our forefathers brought forth this country they did all eat black bread, so you can see why it is that us pioneers are so husky and well. So keep on eating black bread and maybe one of your sons might be a dictator or president. And then again a daughter might become a Garbo or Ann Sheridan. This is always

predicated on the theory that you have the aforementioned kids. Of course if you have more than two the job will be that much harder. Your old dad is a notable example of this.

The younger element of the family has gone in for social activities, which precludes such things as dishwashing, washing and ironing. They do say that the younger element must have their fling, but why confine it to the legs and not to their arms is something that neither I or all the scientists can explain.





n.d. (EF at Cortland) Ruth has put too much emphasis on my balling out. She did not tell you that I was all worked up about Helen going to NY in the worst storm of the winter. She left at noon and they were coming back that same night. She got home at 6 am. I think they are all nuts. They seem to think everything in the country is all wrong. That Russia is God's country. To fill these kids with all this tripe is like saying there is no Santa Claus.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) Re: Cigar Business In the first place, your text book is at least 35 years old. From the workers point of view, the decline of the cigar industry in Binghamton was primarily due to the Tobacco Trust. They got control of the machine that makes cigars. By this operation they could and did make cigars cheaper than the independent manufacturers. This of course put them out of business. The cigar makers union would not recognize the machines. What was once one of the largest unions in the AFL is no more. After the trust got control of the industry they left NY because of the stringent factory laws. At the present time I don't believe there are more than a dozen cigarmakers in Binghamton. The Chamber of Commerce and some of the other reactionaries blame a strike for the loss of this industry but the fact of the matter is that 11 years after the strike the Internal Revenue shows that the industry made more cigars than ever before. Last but not least men do not smoke cigars anymore—it is all cigarettes.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) If John's car was not hors de combat or words to that effect we could come up and get you, but you will have the choice of various methods of getting home—shank's mare, thumb, or bus. Take your choice. Will be seeing you. Enclosed please find \$5.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) My Dear Betty, It all depends on you if the Freeman's are going down in posterity or what have you! Ruth is in love and I don't mean maybe. If Helen hasn't at least two or three dates she is miserable. John is as bad. I have my hands full trying to fatten up Fred. So you can see the position you are in.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) It will be good to have you all around the festive board. Also rather amusing to me to hear all the conflicting view on how to run the country. Of course



you old dad will smile and think how all these opinions will change as he has seen them change in the last 100 years.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) Spring has come and gone in 24 hours! Ruth is driving the truck. Helen is peddling flowers on Court St. Having arrived at a good ripe old age I am devoting what's left to making Fred fat. Some job. Am enclosing your vaccination blank. I am approving it but with my usual reservations. I suppose with this higher education you must be vaccinated. Not having had the advantages of going to school I was never vaccinated. Woe is me!

n.d. (EF at Cortland) Ruth went to her formal last night. She was dressed like Mrs. Astorbilt! A good time was had by all. ...I really believe that Linehan et al are using you at peon wages to do what they are paid to do. Use your head and get something easier. That is why it was put on your shoulders for. Grandma was feeling punk after the rich relatives left. But the Penny Doctor fixed her up.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) Helen's getting all set to graduate. It would be cheaper to send her to Bryn Mawr or Vassar than to get her out of BCHS. It must be hard on the First Warders to keep up with the West Siders. Not ever having gone to school I wouldn't know about such things.

n.d. (EF at Cortland) As Henry Van Porter would say I am de-lighted with your marks. You may some day get the Phi Beta Kappa key or maybe a key such as the mayor of a town to a visiting convention. In which case you could use it for kindling. Now is the winter of our discontent -in other words, it is snowing plenty, much to my disgust.

n.d. (EF teaching school) Today I went to the High School Assembly, the occasion being your little sister, the one you used to fight over who would get the celery string, also the one you gave a bloody nose to. She has been elected to the Honor Society. She was presented a key. It will come in rather handy as we have no keys to the house. So you see I am terribly pleased with my two youngest daughters having so many honors thrust upon them. In fact, I'm shouting it from the rooftops! I take it you got the "glad rags" in time for the festivities. ... Stickleys gave Ruth and Bob a party last night. A good time was had by all. I hope Helen wrote you all the news. If she were getting out a newspaper all the pages would be blank. Don't let teaching get you down. Remember you are the boss, not the kids. Loads of love from your old dad.

6-1-40 Oh! Hum! Nothing but the weather and the war to write about. It looks as if the English would have to move their seat of government to Canada. Well that is not as bad as when Al Smith ran for president they said he was going to bring the Vatican City to Staten Island. ...Helen was out with the League of Nations yesterday. Today it is the Pearl Ave aristocracy. She never can say we limited her in her choice of boyfriends. I still think Brad is the best of them all. He is only about 7 ft. tall. When he gets his full height he will be quite a boy.

2-7-41 The air is rife with lots of news, but I am not let in on it all. Ruth and Helen are all hot and bothered about the trip to Washington. I hope the FBI don't put them all in jail. Ruth gets married to-night! Young Fred is going too. He is driving his car. Now you know all that I know, which ain't much. I suppose after the fireworks are all over they will come and get some ideas from the voice of experience. Ruth said something about a formal gown so you can rest assured you won't have to appear in slacks. Don't let the teaching racket get you down. Women still have babies and teachers are a necessary evil. I am still placing all my bets on you to bring the Freeman's into the promised land. The crop around here are all Nuts!

2-11-41 Ruth happily married. They both got home from Washington OK.

7-24-41 How's the baby? (*ie, Jane*) I hope it has red hair. I never saw a red head that was dumb. As the time approaches I am getting as upset as Walter will be. But what a relief it will be. And then to get back to eating regular fodder.

7-30-41 Ruth entertains her mother in law. I am supposed to show up. Have to put on the dog to show that her son didn't marry into a heathen family. Well you know me!

9-14-41 Your old dad is slipping! Sorry to have missed you yesterday. This is what happened: I supposed you were coming on the Lackawanna. After I got up and shaved and dressed I walked down there and waited at that damned station from 2:30 TO 4:30 and no Betty. I then went to bus terminal but no Betty and was I mad! It was not til after 7:30 when Bob said you were here and gone. It was then that it dawned on me that you might have come on the Erie. Have worried myself sick thinking you were broke and everything that could happen to you. However, I hope the enclosed will tide you over. Let me know what else you may need. And believe me, I am indeed sorry for being such a fool.

11-7-41 How goes the rural school life? I hope you have plenty of cord wood to keep warm with. And the Board of Education cleans the cow manure off their shoes when they come to see how you are getting along. Also that the children keeo you well supplied with red apples. Also that you like the work and are able to make good.

1941 Ho hum! There is nothing to write about. As Will Rogers used to say: "All I know is what I see in the papers." That puts me in mind of a Negro elevator boy in the Eagle office. He used to ask, "what news?" The reply invariably was "nothing." And he would say: "Just getting out a newspaper."

Ruth and Bob go belly wapping on a sleigh! I believe they alternate -one on top and then the other. Oh pshaw! They call that love.



It won't be long now till Xmas. Which would you rather have? An automobile or a wire tooth brush?

2-6-42 Have been on the Fritz this past week. Something crawled up in me and died. Feeling better now.

3-20-42 Ruth has received word that Aunt Betty has left her a legacy. I hope it is not stage money.

5-25-42 Well my little Cinderella it is pretty tough to come back to the kitchen. Well it was worth it. These things only happen once in a lifetime. The whole damn family will have to take off their hats to you. But don't let it go to your head. This is only the beginning.

6-5-42 All you have told me about Jane is true and then some! She is the sweetest and prettiest child I have ever seen. She and parents met me at Ridgewood at 12 o'clock at night and she was as good as gold. ...their home is lovely and all are very happy.

8-7-44 Hell has no more terror for me after the torrid weather we have had for the past month. ...went to see Frances and Walter and took them to see a baseball game and dinner. They never get tired of telling what a wonderful family we all are. Ruth is in her new home, and it is a big improvement on the old. Billy has taken the new environment by storm. The women are all crazy about him. I fear the worst. Edith's teaching him Lutheran folk songs.

9-27-44 Am I proud! You are learning your geography the right way. Was so glad you could go to California. Also that you are so near Helen and yet so far, as I had visions that if you two were stationed at the same field there would be another war on. I have painful memories of the battles you two put on over a red celery ribbon! ...Helen has a subtle way! She has a math book that she displays when there are officers around. You know Helen. She got through high school without ever doing home work. She will make the grade. I am proud of you both. ...I get a kick out of all Ruth's politician friends. They seek my advice on things practical. Me a good enrolled Republican! I see you have Dewey out there. He is so cold that he urinates ice water! Keep up the good work and keep me informed as to your progress and know your old dad is rooting for you every minute.

n.d. (wartime) From all accounts you are sitting pretty. But like the war reports I think they are greatly exaggerated. For instance: "Betty's room was all picked up. Clothes closets in order. Dishes washed, etc." It's all so hard to believe. Ruth has it bad. She and Bob are inseparable. In fact when they are together it is hard to find where one begins and the other ends.



This is just an excuse to send you \$3. With lots of love from your Old Dad

8-21-44 Ned and Ruth are keeping the kids close to home as the polio epidemic has all mothers scared. And the Penny Doctor endorses their views.

8-25-44 Always remember that in these United States where democracy is preached but not practiced, that the cardinal slogan is "it's not what you know, but who you know!" ... It is good to have lived a hundred years. You can be so cynical and amused at what you see and hear as you go along. For instance, the great love the politicians have for the "Laboring Man."

9-4-44 So you won the Blue Ribbon! I remember going to a country fair once and saw a blue ribbon on a big fat pig! I hope that was not the case with Co. 8 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment. I can't imagine you getting fat. ...If you only just send a postal once in a while it helps to keep up the morale of your old dad. Of course after all these years you would not think he needed it. I am happy in my big family. And it gives me much pleasure to know they are doing things and going places.

10-20-44 Just got back from a weekend with Ned and Walter and the kids. They are all well and if those kids keep on they will be mastodons when they arrive at maturity. I gave Jane a few shortcuts in arithmetic and the next time I go down will give her three lessons in high school work. Carl and I get along fine. He is certainly an individualist. Papa and Mama are well. I have made a hit with her as she brings out the choicest vintages...Ned and I have planned a great reunion of the clan when you soldiers come back from the wars. Band engaged! Turkey ordered! All we need now is to get you all together. Ruth is busy gal. Electing a president of the US is a man sized job. Ned sits up all night writing letters to people to attend a meeting at which Orson Welles is the speaker.

11-20-44 The election seems to have pleased everyone notwithstanding that it killed "Cotton Ed" Smith and Brooke (?) Carter. It is my opinion that old FDR will urinate on the graves of a lot of people who have predicted his early demise. ...Ruth is still looking for a place. She worked like a Trojan in the campaign. I don't know how to start to tell you about Billy. In the first place he is growing like a weed. And smart!! It is my opinion he will be a mechanical monstrosity—either an Edison or Rube Goldberg! Bob is missing the best part of his life by not being here to see him develop. I am going out now to see if I can get a turkey for Ruth. They are very scarce. Was very much interested in watching Ned's babies. Of course Jane is adorable but Carl is a different proposition. It would be interesting to watch his development. If my intuition is correct he will be an individualist. I mean by that he will be a keen student and not make many friends but the few he does make will be lasting ones. I would like to live long enough to get under his skin. I bet we would be great pals.



1-3-45 I jumped on a train and went down to see Ned and family. The babies will surprise you. We had dinner and supper at the old folks (*Mama and Papa Wittman*). We talked all afternoon and he told me his experiences in the Klondike. Walter better keep out of that neighborhood or some Esquimo will be calling him brother! I arrived in Ridgewood at 5 am and was lucky to get a taxi. The driver was a colored man and didn't know where Century Road was. So I directed him. The only thing I could tell him that there was a cemetery near there. So we went up Paramus Road and turned in by the cemetery. I asked him if he was afraid and he said no. But by the time he got to E 42 he was a few shades lighter. Also he said he was not going back the way he came. Must be I gave him moral support. ... that was a great Christmas dinner you had while us poor taxpayers had to subsist on pig tails and oleo. However, I would be willing to eat the pigs tails raw if it would end this damn war. I mean when we lick our enemies good and prosper and that does not include only Hitler and Iago.



3-5-45 The enclosed clipping shows your publicity man is on the job! On Saturday Ruth got all bothered about Billy. She called the Penny Doctor who responded immediately , but she was not satisfied with his diagnosis and took him to a specialist. Yesterday when I called up Billy was around as usual. He told me over the phone to bring him ice cream. These young mothers don't know as much as the old maestro!

4-24-45 Your "long" letters are like a ray of sunshine in this Valley of Opportunity. The death of the President hit everyone here the same as it did you. However, his place in history is now well established. The reactionaries will have to look elsewhere for material for their poisoned articles. ... Fred is taking vitamins and has put on weight. He has gained two ounces in the last few months. The union presented your old dad with a 50 year button. It will be something for Billy to play with as I could not wear it. It is bad enough to get old without advertising the fact. ...I note that Helen has been promoted to first class private! That I presume is the first step to becoming a general or something. She says she has a dog! Now I know what pup tents are for!



- 5-7-45 So glad to know that you are out of the hospital and did not have to get a shave. The Penny Doctor would suggest that when you start to put out a fire don't carry the fire apparatus on your back. They don't do that even in paid fire departments!! Where there are so many women, gossip must be the main diversion. So don't get excited about being shipped. The news from Europe changes from day to day. It all sounds like Ted Husing broadcasting a boxing match. Now he is up, now he is down. About Hitler! One day he is dead! The next day he is in an insane asylum! But with your old dad it is Corpus de-lic-ti. It is funny what you learn in the third grade. Your dad will be 73 in a few days and if he could put what he has learned in that time in his last will and testament and give it to his kids it might help. Or would it? So maybe the first stage of the European war is over. But it is my guess that the worse is yet to come. The politicians will take over and I know they will not do as good a job as the armed services have done! ...Praise Allah! The sun is shining! The world do move! The baby of the family has taken to drinking Johnny Walker and the school teacher is shooting crap. Woe is me!
- 6-5-45 I met Billy and Ruth over town yesterday and believe me it is a man's job to look after him. His pet diversion is revolving doors. Recently a kid about his age had been beating him up and he would go crying to his mother. I knew that could not go on, so I took hold and the result of grand dad's training Billy beat up the kid and he is now the champion.
- 7-18-45 I have just returned from seeing our Jersey relatives! Ned and Walt are well and just as much in love with each other as ever. Jane has grown to be a big girl and her pre-school has done much for her. Carl is all boy and he and I are pals. We took the bunch to Bear Mountain and the kids took to the water like ducks. We all went down and had dinner at my Egyptian friend's place and a good time was had by all.
- 7-30-45 I know I have been negligent in writing, but the days come and go so fast when you get to be a hundred that you get dizzy.



8-30-45 Birthday card. Have not heard from the Wittmans. Sent Jane a dress and Carl a suit on Jane's birthday. I suppose it won't be long before you and Helen will be out. I wish I could advise Helen about her love affair. But it's one of those things that we have to decide for ourselves.



10-24-45 10-24-45 Ruth and Billy are somewhere in the big City. Bob's status is about like yours. It seems a case of off again, on again Finnegan! ....It seems harder to get out of the Army than to get in. ....Marion is as busy as a cat on a hot tin roof! This old head of mine is like a vacuum. I can't think of another thing to write about, but rest assured your old dad is like old man river he keeps rolling along.

5-17-46 I am so glad you have taken up the course in Chinese history! They have such quaint sayings, such as "Long time-no see" and "Long time -no write!" ... Had a letter from Helen. She seems to have settled down for a long married life, and is worrying about the children still unborn. Some people always borrow trouble! ... This should hold you for an indefinite period.

5-21-47 I had almost given up hope of ever hearing from my No. 4 daughter. But all is forgiven and you have been reinstated in my good graces. To begin with, I will give you the good news first. Johnnie is coming along OK. The cast has been removed from one foot and it appears to be normal. The doctor has or will have corrective shoes. He is a good kid. Ruth has her problem keeping her husband out of jail.





I am enclosing some clippings which are self explanatory. (Communist leafletters arrested.) This town has been worked up to the nth degree and I would not be surprised if a movement were started to organize something similar to the KKK. You can have freedom of the press if you have a million or so to buy a newspaper. The Bill of Rights and the Constitution are for a certain few. But if a few misguided folks want to get out a 2X4 handbill they are arrested, manhandled, mugged and finger-printed. If it were not so close to home it would be a joke. The "interests" have this "Valley of Opportunity" by the slack of the pants. As the good book says, "To him that hath, shall be given, and to him that hath not, shall be taken, even that which he hath."

I hope you encourage that boy who is a baseball player. Good ballplayers are hard to get. Spellers you can hire at a dime a dozen!

2-26-48 All is quiet on the Eastern front. Ruthie is busy. At present she is endeavoring to get one of her Negro friends out of jail. What with attending Polish and Russian and other nationalities' festivities, she is, indeed, a busy gal. Billy is still champion.

Gannett gave me a bonus of \$120.

With my big family all so busy it seems as if your old dad is just trailing along. Well I did not bring into the world a lot of morons anyway.

Happy Birthington's Wash Day, I mean Washington's Birthday, 1948  
(letter from son John)



10-9-50 Self deprecation is bad. So cut it out. I am the proudest father in the world. There is not a dumb fool in the lot of you....I am back in my igloo after spending some time on the hill with Ruth due to a cold which settled in my kidneys. I hope the doctors have got it licked. I am back on the job. Sitting around pretty near sent me bug house.

1948? **Dear Ned,** Recently (Ruth) left Bob in care of the kids. The dear little angels were nicely playing with their blocks. Bob thought it a good time to get a little sleep. The aforesaid angels got a bright idea—they would make a cake for Ruth! Well, they repaired to the kitchen and started in. The ingredients for the cake consisted of five pounds of sugar, one pound of coffee, three pounds of what flour, one can of Spry, the

remains of a bottle of milk. The table not being big enough they used the kitchen floor. They utilized the dish pan, and for implements, a pancake turner and a soup ladle. I won't spoil this episode by saying more.

July 22, 1948 **To the Editors of the Wittman Watcher:**

You are to be congratulated on your initial enterprise. It was so different from anything I have ever seen. The news coverage was so complete. The editorial was short and to the point, almost reminiscent of the famous editor of the Paramus Clarion. The art work was fine. Whilter or Rockwell Kent never did anything like it. It is to be hoped that the sponsors will not try to dominate its columns, ala Hearst, McCormick, et al. It certainly has a wide circulation, going from one end of the country to the other. The masthead should be copyrighted!

So the ugly duckling has become the winner of the prizes. Your old granddad has been vindicated. On his arrival you wanted to send him back—only for the strenuous opposition of yours truly. Ruth expects sometime in September. Labor Day would be very appropriate as she is a horse for work. The offspring should come out carrying a lawn mower, cultivator, and other utensils too numerous to mention!

Billy is back from spending time with his grandmother. John Henry is the giant of the family. He weighs 25 pounds! Helen is in a race with Ruth. May the best gal win!



**Dear Carl,**

Your future has been on my mind for sometime, and I know what you are up against. I can see very plainly all the bunk you will be subjected to. To start off, you will be a naughty boy if you cry, notwithstanding that you are hungry.

Your mother will tell you what a good little girl Jane was. Well, to put you straight on that subject, I will say as a child she came home about twice a week in the patrol wagon.

Like all little boys you will play "Cops and Robbers!" I would suggest that you get expert advice from your father. You would have to be very careful about this as he might ask a retainer fee. However, if he tells you all he knows, you will be the Jesse James of all the kids in the neighborhood. When you get a little older I suggest that you beat it on your own. If you stay at home you will have to wear Pa's old clothes and get the neck of the chicken. Whereas if you beat it, when you do come home they will kill the fatted calf and put a ring on your finger. I could tell you some lurid stories about your Aunt Betty but that will have to wait 'til some other time.

**Dear Jane,**

There are some many things I see out of my igloo windows. I will tell you some of them.

One day two squirrels were playing. Along comes a yeller alley cat who was trying to catch one of them. The squirrels ran up the tree. When the cat got under the tree, one of them jumped down on his back and dug his claws in him and got his ears in his teeth. That yeller alley cat's running yet!

Next door to me is a flea hound who barks at everyone and wants to fight all the dogs that come along. Well, a dog came by and the flea hound went up to him and smelled him all over. Then he went up the street followed by the big dog. When he got to the corner, he looked up and down to see if there were any cars coming. When the coast was clear he led the other dog across. The big dog was blind. So you see the flea hound did his Boy Scout duty for the day.

One day I was watching a circus parade. Along came the elephants. When they got near me a little girl started to cross the street. Everyone was terror struck, all but the biggest elephant. He picked up the little girl in his trunk and put her back in her mother's arms.



Pop's 80th birthday.