

Lighten Up

A background image featuring several decorated Easter eggs in blue, yellow, and purple, each with white floral patterns. Interspersed among the eggs are small, delicate pink and purple flowers with green stems and leaves, all resting on a light-colored wooden surface.

April 2023 Issue

**SOUP TA
NUTS
EASTER**

**AM I A
FIREMAN
YET?**

**BUBBA THE
GREETER?**

BEGIN EVERY DAY WITH A SMILE

Lighten Up

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uplifting and humorous news,
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Spring already! Good Friday and Easter will soon be here. I hope everyone finds the joy and love that Easter was meant to share.

Lots of stories to share. Starting with the little guy who just wanted to be a fireman. Imagine the hearts of those firefighters to have given this little one such a gift. It is nice to know there are still folks with such big hearts. I know there are many out there, but we tend not to hear about them as the papers are filled with the doom and gloom of life.

That is why I hope to share some joy with this little paper. There is always room in our hearts for a smile or a chuckle or two. Thank you all who send me well wishes and emails to let me know that this paper is touching hearts.

Am I A Fireman Yet?

In Calgary, Alberta, a 26-year-old mother stared down at her 6-year-old son, who was dying of terminal leukemia.

Although her heart was filled with sadness, she also had a strong feeling of determination. Like any parent, she wanted her son to grow up and fulfill all his dreams. Now that was no longer possible. The leukemia would see to that. But she still wanted her son's dream to come true.

She took her son's hand and asked,

"Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up?

Did you ever dream and wish what you would do with your life?"

Mommy, "I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up."

Mom smiled back and said, "Let's see if we can make your wish come true."

Later that day she went to her local fire department in Calgary, where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Alberta.

She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6-year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, "Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards! And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy - one with the emblem of the Calgary Fire Department on it, and a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots. They're all manufactured right here in Calgary so we can get them fast."

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck. Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and helped steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven. There were three fire calls in Calgary that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls.

He rode in the different fire engines, the Paramedics' van, and even the Fire Chief's car. He was also videotaped for the local news program.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept - that no one should die alone, began to call the family members to the hospital.

Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a Fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition.

The chief replied, "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favour? When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire? It's the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?"

About five minutes later a hook and ladder-truck arrived at the hospital and

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Weighting On You!



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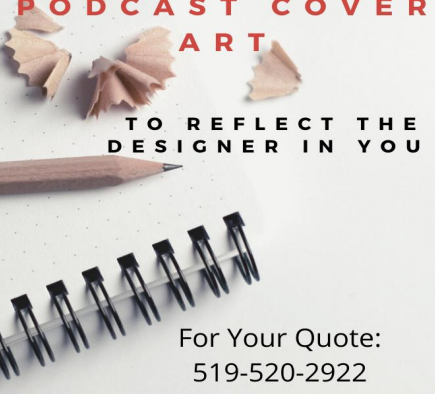
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THINGS YOUR MOTHER SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU

1. Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
2. Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!

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Women and cats will do as they please and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

Up!

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP- UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions. If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP. When it doesn't rain for a while, things dry UP.

At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so....it is time to shut UP!

An older couple is lying in bed one morning. They had just awakened from a good night's sleep. He takes her hand and she responds, "Don't touch me."

"Why not?", he asked.

"Because I'm dead," she answered.

The husband asked, "What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking to one another?"

"No, I'm definitely dead," she said.

He insisted, "You're not dead. What in the world makes you think you're dead?"

"Because I woke up this morning and nothing hurts."



"Soup ta Nuts" Easter

I was rummaging through the old trunk the other day and came upon an old Easter Bonnet that I had when I was a wee one – wee being in years not size, well not that I'm not wee there too, well maybe not that wee but at least a wee cut above.

Easter is fast approaching and this year I have decided to take Clem and myself to church which could be quite a chore folks as Clem is stubborn about getting in to his churchin duds. The last time I saw that man in a suit was when I used him for cut-outs. I cut out his picture and pasted a nice looking suit I found in an advertisement, just to see what he would look like. A gal can dream can't she?

He says he has a suit and if he could be there to control it, he would see to it that it wasn't on him when he croaked; he wants to go to heaven in his coveralls and that way everyone will know him. He is sure they will pass him by if he arrives in a suit.

I asked him what made him so sure he was on his way up and not going down when he passed on. He said he has always followed the golden rule "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". So when the town drunk Archie Baldwin landed on the farm and tried to ride our pet cow Croaker, why Clem offered him a gallon of his freshly-made corn whiskey.

I asked Clem why the heck he did that and he said why if he (Clem) was such a fool as to land on someone else's property doing some fool thing, why he hoped he could get some free whiskey too.

"What goes around, comes around," he reminded me with a twinkle in his eye. "Do a good deed for someone and it expands ten fold. I just don't know if I have enough containers to receive it."

I am re-thinking this thing about dragging him off to church. I just know it will be a huge fight to get him into nice clothes, and to coax him into getting a haircut. He just hates getting his hair cut and I am not going with his

hair in a ponytail. I noticed the other day that the hair in his ears and nose will soon be matching the length of his grey locks.

Sometimes I look at old pictures of that hunk of a man of mine and look at more modern pictures and soon realize that the hunk has sunk. I am now wondering if what goes around comes around, he will do the same with me.

I am now picturing the most beautiful, muscular man with black wavy hair, a huge smile plastered on his face, and crystal-blue eyes looking at me adoringly, walking me into church on Easter Sunday. Do you think that would do it?

I will have to explore this more and report back to you; meanwhile, watch for me coming through your church door with the best looking guy there. Happy Easter. Klara

Am I A Fireman Yet?

(Continued from page #) 2

extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window --16 fire-fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room.

With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him. With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said, "Chief, am I really a fireman now?"

"Billy, you are, and The Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand," the chief said

With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and the angels have been singing." He closed his eyes one last time.

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where a family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, very risky, but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the BRAIN."


The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a time, someone asked, "How much will a brain cost?"

The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain; \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Some of the men actually had to try to not smile, avoiding eye contact with the women. A man unable to control his curiosity, finally blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask, "Why is the male brain so much more than a female brain?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to price the female brains a lot lower because they've been used."

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A man goes to see the Rabbi. "Rabbi, something terrible is happening and I have to talk to you about it."

The Rabbi asked, "What's wrong?"

The man replied, "My wife is poisoning me."

The Rabbi, very surprised by this, asks, "How can that be?"

The man then pleads, "I'm telling you, I'm certain she's poisoning me, what should I do?"

The Rabbi then offers, "Tell you what, let me talk to her, I'll see what I can find out and I'll let you know."

A week later the Rabbi calls the man and says, "I spoke to her on the phone for three hours. You want my advice?"

The man said, "Yes."

The Rabbi replied, "Take the poison."

With a little Bit of Luck

Lessons from Life's Journey by Buzz Lightly (aka Doug Lester)

Easter

There was a time in the 50's when Easter really was a very special event. The kid across the road was Catholic and his family made sure they had lots of fish for a Good Friday meal.

Our family decorated Easter Eggs. We would boil up some eggs and paint them up as fancy as we could. On Saturday my brother and I would line up all the shoes and polish them until they shone. Mother would get out her best hat and try to make it look like new.

Our Evangelical church didn't get as sad about Good Friday as my Catholic neighbours, but we sure got excited about Easter morning.

On Sunday morning we were up well before dawn to go to an Easter Sunrise Service. Everybody was saying, "He is risen!" as a greeting with such enthusiasm that I was expecting to meet Jesus in the church foyer until I was about 6 or 7 years old.

The Sunrise Service was a youth event but since mom and dad were leaders, we got to tag along.

At 6:00 am there would be some music and a short sermon. It was hard to concentrate because the smell of bacon was wafting up from downstairs.

After another song about "He is Risen" we all headed downstairs for breakfast. There was bacon and eggs, toast and jam, and real orange juice. Our usual breakfast at home was porridge so this was a rare feast and we enjoyed every minute of it.

As a young man with a growing appreciation for the opposite sex, the young women with their fancy hats and Easter dresses were like a Broadway show. I watched and listened as the young men in their suits and ties impressed the young women with tales of trout fishing and hot rods.

All too soon the breakfast ended but even then the life lessons continued as the young men rolled up their sleeves, cleared and stacked the tables and chairs with muscles bulging.

I knew that with a little bit of luck I would soon be old enough to be part of the youth group and impress the young women with my own stories. After a

church service at 11:00 am and another that night at 7:00 pm Easter was over for another year.

Papatoadie's Musings



Jaws

Not a breeze did stir
not a ripple make
to disturb the calm upon the lake.
The water still, the loon's eerie call,
echoing eerily in the treetops tall.
I cast my popper upon the still
waiting for jaws, to smash it at will.

With breathless anticipation I wait,
for that old lunger to take the bait.
When all the ripples,
from my bait have stilled,
I crank my reel and wait to be filled.

Filled with excitement
when the water breaks,
and my lure old jaws decides to take.
For 'tis then at the end
of that singing strand
that links both fish and mortal man

I feel his strength and will to live
and know at the end
of the struggle I'll give
back to the lake from which he came,
the freedom he's earned by his size
and his name.

Love

Papatoadie (aka Dave McKee)

Editor's Note: From time to time I will post Papatoadie's much loved poems. It is with sadness that I publish this as Papatoadie has passed on to his new home. But his memory lives on in the wonderful poems he wrote.

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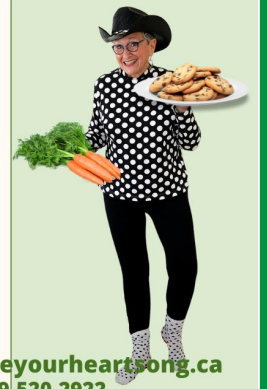
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Everyone has a photographic memory. Some, like me, just don't have any film.

I always know God won't give me more than I can handle. There are times I just wish He didn't trust me quite so much.

If the shoe fits, buy a pair in every colour.

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Bubba The Greeter!



Jennifer, a manager at Wal-Mart, had the task of hiring someone to fill a job opening. After sorting through a stack of resumes she found four people who were equally qualified. Jennifer decided to call the four in and ask them only one question. Their answer would determine which of them would get the job.

The day came and as the four sat around the conference room table, Jennifer asked, 'What is the fastest thing you know of?'

The first man replied, 'A THOUGHT.' It just pops into your head. There's no warning.

'That's very good!' replied Jennifer. 'And, now you sir?', she asked the second man.

'Hmmm...let me see. A blink! It comes and goes and you don't know that it ever happened. A BLINK is the fastest thing I know of.'

'Excellent!' said Jennifer. 'The blink of an eye, that's a very popular cliché for speed.' She then turned to the third man, who was contemplating his reply.

'Well, out at my dad's ranch, you step out of the house and on the wall there's a light switch. When you flip that switch, way out across the pasture the light on the barn comes on in less than an instant. 'Yip, TURNING ON A LIGHT is the fastest thing I can think of'.

Jennifer was very impressed with the third answer and thought she had found her man. 'It 's hard to beat the speed of light,' she said.

Turning to BUBBA, the fourth and final man, Jennifer posed the same question. Old Bubba replied, 'After hearing the previous three answers, it's obvious to me that the fastest thing known is DIARRHEA.'

'WHAT!?' said Jennifer, stunned by the response.

'Oh sure', said BUBBA. 'You see, the other day I wasn't feeling so good, and I ran for the bathroom, but before I could THINK, BLINK, or TURN ON THE LIGHT, I had already messed my

pants.'

BUBBA is now the new greeter at a Wal-Mart near you! You probably will think of this every time you enter a Wal-Mart from now on!

Pure Livin'

Here's something to think about. I recently picked a new primary care doctor.

After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"

He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer, wine or hard liquor?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!"

Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?"

I said, "Not much... My former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!"

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, boating, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"

"No, I don't," I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lots of sex?"

"No," I said.

He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you even give a crap?"



A Wee Bit of Trivia

Q: Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A: When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q: Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

A: This comes from the French word 'm'aidez' -meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced, approximately, 'mayday.'

Q: Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A: In France, where tennis became popular, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When

tennis was introduced in the US, Americans (mis)pronounced it 'love.'

Q: Why do X's at the end of a letter signify kisses?

A: In the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Q: Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

A: In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

Q: Why do people clink their glasses before drinking a toast?

A: It used to be common for someone to try to kill an enemy by offering him a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for a guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would drink it simultaneously. When a guest trusted his host, he would only touch or clink the host's glass with his own.

Q: Why are people in the public eye said to be 'in the limelight'?

Invented in 1825, limelight was used in lighthouses and theatres by burning a cylinder of lime which produced a brilliant light. In the theatre, a performer 'in the limelight' was the centre of attention.


Q: Why is someone who is feeling great 'on cloud nine'?

A: Types of clouds are numbered according to the altitudes they attain, with nine being the highest cloud. If someone is said to be on cloud nine, that person is floating well above worldly cares.

Now you knowThe Rest of The Story

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APRIL ANAGRAM

Subject is Spring - 40 Words - Answers Bottom Left Page 7

B	H	C	P	L	D	H	D	S	G	Z	N	Y	T	T	C	L	U	R	E	S	J	R	D
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Q	B	K	D	E	C	J	O	R	A	K	I	N	G	T	I	D	S	P	N	N	B	R	O
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Z	M	R	I	A	H	M	K	R	K	O	V	G	F	E	M	N	I	S	Y	T	B	N	E
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P	W	Y	G	E	M	Z	X	N	Y	M	T	A	Z	F	G	I	N	H	D	R	F	Y	Q
M	M	Z	B	L	N	N	N	T	Z	H	W	S	M	U	N	M	J	T	L	A	F	W	L
J	L	I	R	P	A	C	B	M	R	A	Q	M	P	E	K	J	G	D	V	W	R	K	L

Signs of the Times!

Outside a Muffler Shop:

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment.

However, if you don't, you will be."

In a Restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."

At a Propane Filling Station:

"Thank heaven for little grills."

And don't forget the sign at a

CHICAGO RADIATOR SHOP:

"Best place in town to take a leak."

Lesser Known Knights of the Round Table

- ♦ The knight who was afraid to fight: Sir Render
- ♦ The knight no one believed: Sir Real
- ♦ The knight too big to sit at the table: Sir Round
- ♦ The knight who designed the table: Sir Cumference
- ♦ The undercover knight: Sir Veillance
- ♦ The knight who was never killed in battle: Sir Vivor
- ♦ The knight who exceeded expectations: Sir Passed
- ♦ The knight who showed up unexpectedly: Sir Prize
- ♦ The knight who overcame obstacles: Sir Mount
- ♦ The knight who funded the kingdom: Sir Tax
- ♦ The knight who kept the maps up-to-date: Sir Veyor
- ♦ The knight who drank too much: Sir Rhosis
- ♦ The knight who stood in for the king: Sir Rogate
- ♦ The knight who stood out among the rest: Sir Perb
- ♦ The knight with the fragile ego: Sir Amic
- ♦ The knight who performed in three rings: Sir Cus
- ♦ The saddest knight of all: Sir Rowful
- ♦ The knight who wasn't needed: Sir Perfluous
- ♦ The knight who liked to dance: Sir Prance Alot

Anagram Answers: April, awakening, birds, blossoms, buds, burning, cleaning up, colour, dandelions, earth, Easter, fertilizer, fishing, flowers, fresh air, gardening, grass, green, green leaves, growth, love, lures, May, motor-cycle, mowing, picnics, planting, plants, rain, raking, robin, romance, rototilling, shorts, smells, summer jackets, sunshine, travel, warmth, water.

The Tiny Cabin

A social worker from a big city in Ontario recently transferred to the northern part of Alberta, and a small community was on the first tour of her new territory... when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life.

Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door. "Anybody home?" she asked.

"Yep," came a kid's voice through the door.

"Is your father there?" asked the social worker.

"Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in," said the kid.

"Well, is your mother there?" persisted the social worker.

"Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here," said the kid.

"But," protested the social worker, "Are you never together as a family?"

"Sure, but not here," said the kid through the door, "But this is the Out-house!"

(Some Government workers are so smart) and we pay these people?

Grins and Snickers

I was in the 'Six Item Express' lane at the supermarket, quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward, looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So - which six items would you like to buy?"

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbour and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully, "Give me one last request, dear," he said.

"Of course, John," his wife said softly.

"Six months after I die," he said, "I want you to marry Bob."

"But I thought you hated Bob," she said.

With his last breath John said, "I do!"

hey, listen to your emotions...

Bitterness shows you where you need to heal, where you're still holding judgments on others and yourself.

Resentment shows you where you're living in the past and not allowing the present to be as it is.

Discomfort shows you that you need to pay attention right now to what is happening, because you're being given the opportunity to change, to do something different than you typically do it.

Anger shows you what you're passionate about, where your boundaries are, and what you believe needs to change about the world.

Disappointment shows you that you tried for something, that you did not give in to apathy, that you still care.

Guilt shows you that you're still living life in other people's expectations of what you should do.

Shame shows you that you're internalizing other people's beliefs about who you should be (or who you are) and that you need to reconnect with yourself.

Anxiety shows you that you need to wake up, right now, and that you need to be present, that you're stuck in the past and living in fear of the future.

Sadness shows you the depth of your feeling, the depth of your care for others and this world.

