



Chatterbox

December 2024 Issue

**SOUP TA
NUTS**

**CHRISTMAS
MEMORIES**

**Begin
Every
Day
With a
Smile**

The Chatterbox

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Letter From The Editor: A special edition of Chatterbox. I haven't published for quite a while and decided to share some merriment with you. We all need some light-hearted warmth in this special season.

Merry Christmas to everyone and all the best in the New Year. Another year has passed and we are almost into our 6th year of publication with the Chatterbox. I thought the Shoes In Church fit perfectly into this issue to remind us that we must never prejudice another and to reach out to someone to whom you feel is in need. I published this before but thought it would be a good one to include in a Christmas issue. A kindly gesture like hello doesn't take much time out of our busy lives and you have no idea how you might change the life of another.

Liz Underhill



Shoes In Church

*I showered and shaved, I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat in a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer, as I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me..touching my own, I sighed.*

*With plenty of room on either side.
I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine.
But it didn't bother him much.*

*A prayer began : "Our Father",
I thought, "This man with the shoes, has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched.
Even worse, there are holes on the side!"*

*"Thank You for blessings," the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet "Amen."
I tried to focus on the prayer,
but my thoughts were on his shoes again.*

*Aren't we supposed to look our best
When walking through that door?
"Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought,
glancing toward the floor..*

*Then the prayer was ended.
And the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud.
Sounding proud as he sang.*

*His voice lifted the rafters.
His hands were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear.
The shoe man's voice from the sky.*

*It was time for the offering.
And what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached.
Into his pockets so deep.*

Weighting On You!



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Quotes For The Men!

When a man steals your wife,
there is no better revenge than to
let him keep her. *King David*

After marriage, husband and
wife become two sides of a coin;
they just can't face each other, but
still they stay together.
Sasha Guitry

By all means marry. If you get a
good wife, you'll be happy. If you
get a bad one, you'll become a phi-
losopher. *Socrates*

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Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get
everything done.

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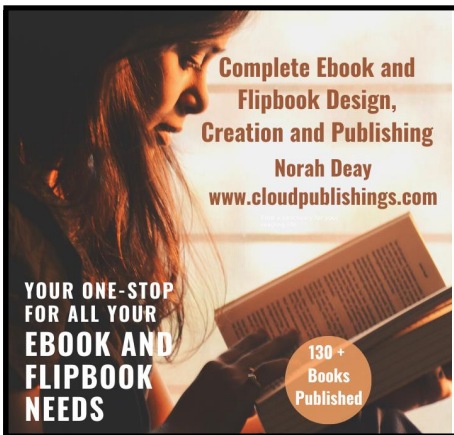


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Ponderisms

I used to eat a lot of natural
foods until I learned that
most people die of natural
causes.

There are two kinds of
Pedestrians.
The quick and the dead

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn...Crown Him with
Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn...There Shall
Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn...The Church is
One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn...Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn...There's a Green
Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn... Standing on
the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn...Open My Eyes
That I Might See
The Income Tax Agent's Hymn...I
Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn...Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn...Send The
Light
The Shopper's Hymn...Sweet Bye
and Bye
The Realtor's Hymn...I've Got a
Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
The Massage Therapists Hymn...He
Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn...The Great Phy-
sician
AND for those who speed on the
highway - a few hymns:
55 mph...God Will Take Care of You
75 mph...Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph...This World Is Not My
Home
95 mph...Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph...Precious Memories

Healthy is merely the

Slowest possible rate at which
one can die.

The only difference between a
rut and a grave is the depth

Have you noticed since every-
one has a cell phone these
days no one talks about see-
ing UFOs like they used to?



"Soup ta Nuts"

Christmas Memories

A funny memory came to mind as I was sitting reminiscing about Christmas's past. . My memory recalled a humorous Christmas a few years ago.

Soon this most important date in our history will be approaching and such an important date for our family too. Traditionally Christmas is family. The outlaws, Mertle, Mortimer, Collard and Cornish (our sons), Cranky Cat, and now our newest addition Crabby Dog, sit around the dinner table.

Sometimes it is the only time family can gather and catch up on the year's news and give thanks we are all standing above ground. Each one—with the exception of our beloved animals—says what he/she is thankful for. I know the animals are giving thanks too, that we haven't handed them over to the animal cops when they take a nip out of Clem's hair piece, or knock his false teeth off the stand next to the bed.

Years ago, Clem used to put to rest our fresh, Christmas turkey. I remember one day, coming home, groceries for the event in hand and there sat Clem, with the turkey wobbling around on his knee. The noises coming out of that bird were like nothing I had ever heard, some foreign language for sure. On looking closer, I realized this bird had glassy eyes.

"Clem what the devil is going on here?" I asked rooted to the spot. "What is wrong with the turkey? Why do you have a whiskey bottle on the table? Why are you holding a spoon?"

The turkey started to flap and I was so startled, I dropped the groceries, cans of pumpkin crushing my toes, my ingrown toenails sending me into

spasms of pain. After a few cussing words shouted and more just waiting to erupt, I gained some composure and grabbed a fly swatter to defend myself in the event that bird came my way. That darn turkey must have realized it was going to be a croaked turkey as it settled down and kept staring at Clem.

"Listen Klara", Clem slurred, "If I have to do the deed of putting my friend here to his eternal rest, then the least I can do is make sure he doesn't feel a thing. That's why I am feeding him the booze".

I shot a look at both drunks and to this day, I swear that turkey winked at me, daring me to do something. That was the last turkey that Clem ever got drunk. He insisted he only wanted to have the turkeys as friends. I told him he had enough friends that were turkeys.

Old Clem was aging, he could see his pasture fast approaching. I am sure he was wondering what his fate would be, as I think back, for when I offered to give him some whiskey he looked at me with suspicious eyes.

He said if he couldn't have turkey, then we would have no meat at all. We quit eating meat cold turkey. We are now vegetarians and loving it. Ms. Klara

For All Of Us Who Are Seniors!



The reason why baby diapers have brand names such as Luvs and

Huggies, while undergarments for old people are called Depends:

When babies poop in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em and Hug'em. When old people poop in their pants, it Depends on who's in the will!



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Shoes In Church

(Continued from page 2)

I saw what was pulled out.
What the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink'.
As when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me
to tears, and that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man.
For tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service
as is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors,
and show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow.
And wanted to meet the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer,
I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark,
and his hair was truly a mess.
But I thanked him for coming.
For being our guest.

He said, "My name's Charlie.
I'm glad to meet you, my friend."
There were tears in his eyes,
but he had a large, wide grin.

"Let me explain," he said,
wiping tears from his eyes.
"I've been coming here for months,
and you're the first to say 'hi'.

I know that my appearance
is not like all the rest.
But I really do try
to always look my best.

I always clean and polish my shoes
before my very long walk.
But by the time I get here
they're dirty and dusty, like chalk."

My heart filled with pain
and I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize
for daring to sit so near

He said, "When I get here
I know I must look a sight.
But I thought if I could touch you
then maybe our souls might unite."

I was silent for a moment
knowing whatever was said
Would pale in comparison.
I spoke from my heart, not my head.

Oh, you've touched me," I said.
And taught me, in part
that the best of any man
is what is found in his heart."

The rest, I thought,
this shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am
that his dirty old shoe touched my
soul.

Household Hints!

If you place a wooden
spoon over a pot of
boiling water, it won't
boil over!

You can flip a
toaster on its side and
grill cheese in it.

Marshmallows can
cure a sore throat. Perfect for kids
who don't like medicine. Really?

Cereal canisters make the perfect
rubbish bin for your car!

Take your bananas apart when you
get home from the shop. If you leave
them connected at the stem, they ripen
faster.

Place your opened chunks of cheese
in aluminium foil. It will stay fresh
much longer and not mould! (But you
can scrape off any mould and still eat
the cheese without changes in flavour!)

Peppers with three bumps on the
bottom are sweeter and better for
eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the
bottom are stronger flavoured.

Add a teaspoon of water when
frying minced beef. It will help pull the
grease away from the meat while
cooking.

Place a rubber band around an open
paint can to wipe your brush on, and
keep paint off the side of the can.

Use a staple remover to save your
fingernails when trying to add things
to your key ring!

Use a micro-fibre cloth to prevent
frost from forming on the windshield.

Use a comb to keep a nail steady for
hammering.

Use a post-it note (folded in half)
to catch drilling debris.



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Summary of Life

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground...
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions...
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus

Merry Christmas



*"Be yourself,
| because the
people who
mind don't
matter, and
the people
that matter,
don't mind."*

In the 60's people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

All of us could take a lesson from the weather, it pays no attention to criticism.

Signs

Cocktail Lounge, Norway:
Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

Signs

At a Budapest Zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

Signs

In a City Restaurant: Open seven days a week, and weekends too.



"Soup ta Nuts"

Count Your Talents

I thought I'd add this additional Christmas message from the Kravitz clan. Hope you enjoy it.

Christmas is a special time of year for all the Kravitz Clan and this year we have decided to change our focus. Instead of material gifts, we have decided, that at our celebration, each person is to give the gift of something we have made with our own two hands, and to give thanks that we have talents - with the exception of Cranky Cat and Crabby Dog as they have four hands each, and the only talent they have to make is a mess with Cranky Cat's litter.

We are calling it "Count Your Talents." As I sit here, preparing a list of all the talents I have, I recall memories of last Christmas.

I was making out my shopping list, and I heard Clem outside barking at Crabby Dog, to get the lead out. It had snowed heavily the night before, and Clem no longer did the shovelling, what with his weak knees, sore back, bad hip, arthritis, bursitis and all. We did have to get rid of that snow, so every morning, without fail, Clem, along with Crabby Dog, went out for

"his walk".

In the winter, after every snowfall, "his walk" takes him up and down the driveway, and up and down the sidewalk in front of our house. He says he's blazing a trail through the snow. He claims he really gets a workout when the plough comes by. I used to swear that plough would wait just down the street, for us to shovel that last shovelful, and then plow, engines screaming, that crazy driver would aim square for our drive, and bulldoze mounds more of that darn snow right in our path. My Clem figured it all out though. If there's a way to save some money that penny pinching hubby of mine will find it.

The neighbours, I know, must have been curious watching Clem and Crabby Dog stomp up one side of that mound and down the other, packing all the snow down until a trail for our car tires was forged. I do wish he had that perseverance in other areas! I prayed that he would do something with the middle of the mound, as the underbelly of my car was no longer getting tickled, it was getting downright punched. I swore that one day, the only thing left landing on the road would be the frame, with my old legs pedaling to keep us all afloat.

Sometimes, Crabby Dog just doesn't move fast enough and Clem's dander gets a little heated! I could hear him hollering "Crabby Dog if you don't get

that hind end of yours moving over that mound, I'll be forced to lift my arthritic foot and boot your rear over. As this memory caused me to chuckle somewhat, I wrote at the top of my talent list "My Sense of Humour and My Family", for without humour, Clem, Cranky Cat, Crabby Dog, and all my family, what could I write about? I am truly blessed.

On behalf of all the Kravitz Clan - Clem, Klara, Cranky Cat, Crabby Dog, Mother Mertle, Father Mortimer, Constance, Collard and Cornish - Merry Christmas and "Count Your Talents" Till Next Year! Ms. Klara

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This Needs a Thinking Cap

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

Answer: Johnny of course.

2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall, and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?

Answer: Meat.

3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

Answer: Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet. [You're not very good at this are you?]

4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?

Answer: There is no dirt in a hole.

5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?

Answer: Incorrectly.

6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?

Answer: Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere.

7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?

Answer: You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a camera to take pictures.

8. What was the President's name in 1975?

Answer: Same as is it now - Barack Obama [Oh, come on...]

9. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?

Answer: You would be in 2nd. Well, you passed the person in second place, not first.

10. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?

Answer: Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow [Duh!]

11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?
Answer: One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big one.

Impossibilities in the world

- 1) You can't count your hair.
- 2) You can't wash your eyes with soap.
- 3) You can't breathe through your nose when your tongue is out. Put your tongue back in your mouth, you silly person.

Ten (10) Things I know about you.

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
(haha, I can...I'm a ventriloquist - Editor)
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person and everyone does it too.
- 10) You are probably going to tell people about this to see who else falls for it.

I am printing this because I didn't want to be alone in the idiot category - Editor

Stress Management for Women!



A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading and explaining stress

management to an audience with a raised glass of water. Everyone knew she was going to ask the ultimate question, 'half empty or half full?'. She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz.

She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a

day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." She continued, "And that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden - holding stress longer and better each time practiced. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... Pick them up tomorrow.

1 * Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

2 * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

3 * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

4 * Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

5 * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

6 * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

7 * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

8 * Never buy a car you can't push.

9 * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.

10 * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

11 * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.

12 * The second mouse gets the cheese.

13 * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

14 * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.

15 * Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.

16 * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

17 * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY

18 * Save the Earth..... It's the only planet with chocolate!*