

"Don't cry because it's over.
Smile because it happened." ~ Dr. Seuss

THROUGHOUT THE 'PLANET,' CLICKING
BOLD, DARK RED TYPE
OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

REMEMBERING MILTON

Goshen cousin and fellow thespian **George Riddle** writes, "The year was 1993 and I was in LA playing the Pantages Theatre in *The Will Rogers Follies*. Will Rogers' youngest son, **Jim Rogers**, called me and asked if I'd like to have lunch at the Friars Club. I was thrilled.

"Before our food arrived, **Milton Berle** walked to our table and said hello to Jim ... (Milton probably knew Will Rogers, too). "Who's the kid?" said Milton, referring to me. (I was 56 at the time.) Jim told him I was playing Clem Rogers in *WRF*. But the conversation wasn't about me or Jim Rogers – it was all about Berle. Berle was holding court at the Friars Club.

"There was lots of laughter. At one point Berle recited a little poem: 'I'd rather be a could-be if I cannot be an are; because a could-be is a maybe who is reaching for a star. I'd rather be a has-been than a might-have-been, by far; for a might have-been has never been, but a has was once an are.' It was a magical moment.

"I asked Mr. Berle to repeat it slowly so I could write it down. He said, 'I'll do better than that' and took a sharpie pen out of his pocket and wrote it on a white linen napkin -- and signed it! I have that napkin still. **I MISS MILTON BERLE...**



CUTOUT CUT-UPS. Milton Berle, circa 1980s
upholds Ben Yagoda's Will Rogers biography.

Never miss a good
chance to shut up.
- Will Rogers

HOW TO SING THE BLUES

This has been around for a while, but it's still good. Wonder who wrote it...

Most Blues begin with: "Woke up this mornin'..." "I got a good woman" is a bad way to begin the Blues, unless you stick

something nasty in the next line like, "I got a good woman, with the meanest face in town."

The Blues is simple. After you get the first line right, repeat it. Then find something that rhymes - sort of: "Got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Yes, I got a good woman with the meanest face in town. Got teeth like Margaret Thatcher and she weigh 500 pound."

The Blues is not about choice. You be stuck in a ditch - you stuck in a ditch, ain't no way out. Blues cars are Chevys, Fords, Caddies and broken-down trucks. Blues don't travel in Volvos, BMWs, or SUVs. Blues transportation is more likely a Greyhound bus or a southbound train; Jet aircraft and state-sponsored motor pools ain't even in the runnin'.

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Walkin' plays a major part in the Blues lifestyle. So does fixin' to die, so teenagers can't sing the Blues, they ain't fixin' to die yet. Only adults sing the Blues which means being old enough to get the electric chair if you shoot a man in Memphis.

Blues can take place in big cities like New York but not in Hawaii or anywhere in Canada. "Hard times" in Minneapolis or Seattle is probably just clinical depression. The best places to have the Blues are in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Memphis, and N'awlins. You cannot have the Blues in anyplace that don't get rain.

Breaking your leg because you were skiing is not the Blues. Breaking your leg because an alligator be chomping on it, is. You can't have no Blues in an office or a shopping mall - the lighting is all wrong. Go outside to the parking lot or sit by the dumpster. Good places for the Blues: a. highway b. jailhouse c. empty bed d. bottom of a whiskey glass. Bad places for the Blues: a. Starbucks b. gallery openings c. Stanford d. golf courses.

And finally, no one will believe it's the Blues if you wear a suit, 'less you happen to be an old person, and you slept in it.

"That's the only thing this president hasn't done is just urinate on us"
~ Glenn Beck

YANK ME

A guy walks into a bar in West Virginia and orders a white wine. All the Hillbillies sitting around the bar look up, expecting to see some pitiful Yankee from the north. The bartender says, "You ain't from around here, are ya?" The guy says, "No, I'm from Pennsylvania."

What do you do in Pennsylvania?" asks the barkeep. The guy says, "I'm a taxidermist."

"A taxidermist?" says the bartender. "What in tarnation is a taxidermist? Do you drive a taxi?"

"No, a taxidermist doesn't

drive a taxi. I mount animals."

The bartender grins and hollers, "It's okay boys. He's one of us."

"The Taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government, but doesn't have to take a civil service examination."
~ Ronald Reagan, U.S. President

THE ICEMAN COMETH

You have to love the fact that a parody of a political party in Iceland, started months ago by a comedian, won the most seats in a local election.

A SILVER POEM

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyze myself.

One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze.
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright,
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.

Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know --
Is what tells each one where to go!

The party, known simply as "the Best," garnered 34.7% of the vote and secured 6 of 15 seats in the local council of the Icelandic capital, Reykjavik. Their video featured members of the party and its founder Jon Gnarr—now the city's mayor—singing to Tina Turner's "The Best" (what else?). Key pledges included "sustainable transparency," free towels at all swimming pools, a new polar bear for the zoo, a "Disneyland" at the airport and a "drug-free parliament" by 2020.

Clearly Icelanders, who have seen their entire economy collapse, get the joke!

MORE

"You are born, you live your life in torment and humiliation, and then you die. You need to watch television to distract yourself from your miserable destiny." ~ Brother Theodore
(by way of Bill Glass)

HAWKING

Stephen Hawking was recently interviewed by Diane Sawyer on ABC, and here are a few gems:



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"I want to know why the universe exists and why there is something rather than nothing. You look at the vast size of the universe and how insignificant and accidental human life is, and that seems most implausible. There is a fundamental difference between religion, which is based on authority, and science, which is based on observation and reason. Science will win because it works."

What does Stephen Hawking say to his children and grandchildren?

"Here are the most important pieces of advice that I passed on to my children. First, remember to look up at the stars at night and not down at your feet. Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life would be nothing without it. Three, if you're lucky enough to find love, remember it is rare and don't throw it away." Diane Sawyer then added that her parents' most important advice was "comb your hair in the back and not just in the front."

Hawking left us with these words: "God not only plays dice with the world but sometimes throws the dice where they can't be seen."

"Any man who afflicts the human race with ideas must be prepared see them misunderstood."
~ H. L. Mencken

PETPALS

*I'm rolling around,
Peaceful, happy, wild!
Cats are catnip
for people.*

(Haiku by Frank Dwyer)

*"I'm so busy doing nothing,
I don't have time to do anything."
~ Jayne Stahl's Aunt Sylvia
who turns 96 in September*

LET'S EAT

Melinda Peterson and I will be performing at The Writers Guild of America, West this coming Monday in a staged reading of *L.A. Deli* – A Two Act Comedy by **Sam Bobrick**.

It's 12 showbiz sketches, set in a deli like Nate & Al's in Beverly Hills, performed by six actors including Antaeus' own **Devon Sorvari** and our dear demented **Richard Horvitz** from *The Psychic*.



IDLE TIME. Phil and Eric at the TV Academy premiere of the Monty Python documentary.

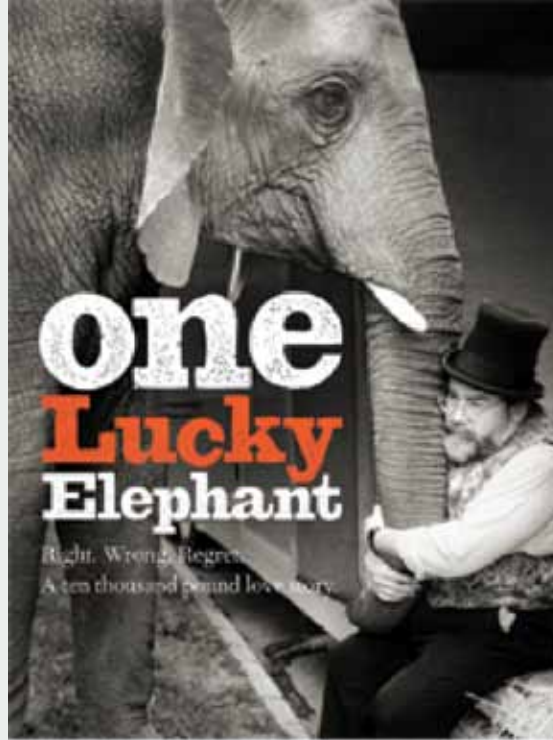
*"Comedy is saying the right thing at the wrong time."
~ Eric Idle*

"Some of the events depicted were experienced by the author," says Sam. "Some of them by other people, and some of them are totally fabricated. After working in the entertainment business for many years, the author is not sure which is which."

COME SEE US! Monday, June 21, 2010 at 7 p.m. at the 2nd Floor Multi-purpose Room, 7000 W. 3rd St. Los Angeles, CA 90048 (Park on Blackburn, one block south of 3rd Street.) A deli nosh will follow the show...

E-SVP to: diversity@wga.org with L.A. DELI as subject or call 323-782-4589

"Success is not a destination, it's a journey."
~ (UCLA) Coach John Wooden



OLE'

My reading of *Don Quixote* with the **Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** takes place as part of the Guitar Foundation Festival at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, 701 West Riverside Drive in Austin, Wednesday, June 23 at 8 p.m.

That show will be followed by two more **Firesign Theatre** shows at Ashland, Oregon and then Redding, California. Our Portland and Eugene shows last week were an hysterical delight! Thanks to all who came out of hiding to see us.

... **READ ABOUT IT...**

And here's a link to a recent "Dangerous Minds" video interview with **Richard Metzger** about Firesign's *Dear Friends* shows on New Jersey **WFMU radio**.

And if you're in LA, come see the world premiere of our next-door neighbors' moving documentary "**ONE LUCKY ELEPHANT**" at the LA Film Festival tomorrow, Saturday, June 19 at 6:30. I added a few ringmaster voices and support the Elephant Sanctuary.

"In order to attain the impossible,
one must attempt the absurd."
~ Miguel de Cervantes

JUST IN . . .

In a bid to stem taxpayer losses for bad loans guaranteed by federal housing agencies Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac, Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn) proposed that borrowers be required to make a 5% down payment in order to qualify.

His proposal was rejected 57-42 on a party-line vote because, as Senator Chris Dodd

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(D-Conn) explained, "passage of such a requirement would restrict home ownership to only those who can afford it."

Kissing is healthier than shaking hands.
~ Phil's Phunny Phacts

Jayne Stahl, Firesign tour mavens Maureen Weston, Taylor Jessen and Oona Austin; Cristina Colissimo and Jordana Glick-Franzheim for *One Lucky Elephant*, and Lou and Mary Kate Mackey and Thom and Louise Hartmann for wonderful breakfasts while we were in Oregon.

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." ~ Aristotle

THANKEES

Bill Coombs, Bill Glass, H. Lee Kagan, Patti Poet, Laurence Budd, Victor Kopcewich, M.C. Gwynne, Kenneth Wilhite, Jr., Drew Daniels, Nick Oliva, Jann Cobler,

PLANET CLICK

SURFEES

TAKK PHILIP

TICTOC

BP SPILL

OILS WELL

CLEANUP

CURSES

HEALTH

FINGERSAW

LATENITE

BALL

BIBLE

BROKEBACK

HOPPER

AROSING TO
THE OCCASION

FORGOT

OUR FOREFATHERS
USED DRUGS

VJDAY

DDAY

THOM HARTMANN AND
HIS FAMOUS CAT HIGGINS.
We listen to Thom on KTLK
progressive radio down
here in L.A. and he is a great
booster of all things Firesign.

"Sometimes I just don't get Sarah Palin. She sleeps with a guy who worked for BP for 18 years but accuses Obama of being in bed with big oil. Go figure." ~ Anon

"Comedy is dangerous: telling people things they don't want to know." ~ Eric Idle

CLICK THE WORD TO
GO TO THE SITE

FIRESIGN CDs: <http://www.laugh.com>

FUNNY TIMES: <http://www.funnytimes.com>

BEARWHIZ BEER <http://www.eagletshirts.com>

FST: <http://www.FiresignTheatre.com>