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Humor

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Appalachian Heritage, Volume 36, Number 1, Winter 2008, pp. 37-39
(Article)

Published by The University of North Carolina Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/aph.2008.0024>

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HUMOR

Billy Edd Wheeler

The jokes in this issue are from books Loyal Jones and I edited, the first of which was *Laughter In Appalachia: A Festival of Southern Mountain Humor*. We collected from hundreds of ordinary people and from a few celebrities, judges, ministers, teachers—storytellers all.

I ended my essay for *Hometown Humor* with an anecdote from an old friend, Howard White of Madison, Tennessee, who tells about one of his neighbors out there, Charlie Warren, who was building a hog pen one day when another neighbor, a Mr. Holmes, dropped by and made an observation.

“Charlie,” he said, “that bottom board looks too high to me. It’ll allow them hogs to get out.”

Charlie allowed that the board did look to be too high, but he said, “It is just low enough to scrape that hog’s back as he goes out. And it’ll feel so good to him, he’ll turn around and come back in.”

So, faithful reader, dig in and help yourself. If you see a joke or something you like and want to be the first to tell it to one of your friends, why, just scooch under that bottom board there and run loose with it. I hope it scrapes your funny bone and brings you back for more. ’Cause just like Charlie Warren’s hog, jokes are always coming and going, and they make you feel good either way.

The Long Sermon

The pastor, waiting at the door, inquired of a lady parishioner, “Was my sermon too long?”

“No,” she said, “it just seemed long.”

“I’m sorry to hear that,” said the pastor.

“Oh, don’t be,” said the lady. “It was one of the best long speeches I ever heard. I just thought it was superfluous.”

“Good. I intend to have it published posthumously.”

“I hope you hurry,” the woman said, “I want to read it.”

Wilma Dykeman

Banjo Picker Jokes

Q: If you were in trouble and needed to send someone for help, and you had three choices, who would you send? (a) Santa Claus, (b) An out-of-tune banjo picker, or (c) An in-tune banjo picker?

A: You'd send the out-of-tune banjo picker. The other two are myths.

Q: What's the difference between a fiddle and a banjo?

A: A banjo burns longer.

Q: What's the definition of a true gentleman?

A: A man who knows how to play the banjo, but doesn't.

Q: What's the difference between an onion and a banjo?

A: Nobody cries when you cut up a banjo.

Q: What do you say to a banjo picker in a three-piece suit?

A: Will the defendant please rise.

Q: What's the difference between a dead possum on the road and a dead banjo picker?

A: The possum was going to a gig.

Q: What's the difference between a trampoline and a banjo?

A: You take off your shoes to jump on a trampoline.

*Margaret Archer,
lead singer of the group known as "The Cluster Pluckers" and formerly
married to banjo player Richard Bailey, who helped her with research.*

No Way

A Sunday School teacher had just finished telling her class about Noah and the Ark. She asked, "Now, how do you think Noah spent his time while they were on the ark?"

A little girl held up her hand and said, "I'll bet he fished a lot."

A little boy said, "How could he? He only had two worms."

Loyal Jones

Even So

Back in the old days a farmer drove his wagon into Frankfort, Kentucky, to do some trading. He stopped in front of a feed store, but the store had no hitching post. Seeing a man standing nearby doing nothing, he asked, "Would you mind holding my team while I do some trading?"

"I'll have you know that I am a member of the legislature," the man said stiffly.

"That's all right," said the farmer, "I trust you anyhow."

Loyal Jones