

CHRONICLE

IS PUBLISHED BY MONDY ON MONDAY FOR THE MONDYS, THE JINKSES,
THEIR KIN, NEAR KIN, AND A FEW FRIENDS

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Published By H. C. Mondy,
P.O. Box 1696
El Prado, NM 87529
Phone: (505) 776 5571

"I'm going to try and get this issue of the Chronicle out on time."

What is wrong with that sentence? There is nothing wrong with the idea of getting the Chronicle out on time, but that sentence, which is typical of many heard on TV these days is the worst form of grammar. The Republicans are going to try and balance the budget. The Democrats are going to try and take care of the children of America. Everybody is going to try and do something. "Try" is a transitive verb and requires an object. What is it they are going to try? I should have said, "I'm going to try to get this issue out on time." They should have said they were going to try to balance the budget or try to help the children etc. Oh how I wish I were a dictator for a few months, I'd sentence any person making this error to thirty days of grammar school so they could learn how to speak. I wonder what my father would have done with such a sentence if he had tried to diagram it. He was good at diagramming sentences though he had never gone any further in school than about the 6th grade. Maybe teachers ought to have their students listen to the way our language is butchered on the air.

Okay, you have had your grammar lesson for today.

I'm starting this issue on Tuesday, January 28th. I have a letter from the Duffers, one from Dena Houston, and a report of a strange poltergeist from our daughter, Judy. I hope I'll get another letter, maybe two, by the

end of the week.

From the Duffers I received not only a letter but four of Russell's poems, a list of all the churches Russell has pastored, and a page containing 60 persons to whom I am related, composed by Willa Davis, Kenneth's wife. (Thanks, Willa)

FROM THE DUFFERS

(1/23/97)

"Dear Harrison, Cousins, and Friends.

" It has been quite some time since I have written. It hasn't been because I haven't wanted to or hadn't thought of you, but because I have simply been unable to write at all. I had surgery on November 21st and of course for some time I could not write at all, then for some time I could write only a line or two. I couldn't even write a check.

"On December 21st I took a bad case of bronchitis and have just this week gotten so I'm able to write at all. I am feeling much better and for the first time I went to the grocery store this week.

"Russell does real well some days and some days not so well but he keeps going and hasn't had what I have had.

Week before last we had a typical Arkansas spell of weather. All the trees and lines were covered with ice for two days and nights. We lost all of our plants outside the house. We have lived here twenty years and have never seen anything like this. We have had two or three freezes sometimes, but not this kind of weather. It has been in the 70's this week and we have not even had a fire on day or night all week. We had a big rain this afternoon and are now under a tornado watch.

"We enjoyed a visit of a friend from Alaska last week and he said it was too hot for

him.

"Grandson Jay, (Jerry's youngest) has been home on vacation. He and his girlfriend are now engaged and we are very happy. She is a real sweet girl. They are both actors and will go to New York this week. They have lived in Wisconsin for quite some time and will return there for the summer.

"Grandson Jack has just returned from a trip to the Holy Land. He is attending the seminary in Kansas City and is also the youth director in one of the churches there. He is a preacher.

"Jerry is still improving from his stroke. He is able to carry on his work at the church.

"Harrison, I really enjoyed your *I Remember Lorine*. Reminded me of so many things. I hope your leg is improving.

"Love to all, Russell and R.A."

Yesterday afternoon Margaret was watching TV when there came the news that a tornado had struck Pasadena, TX where her sister Judy lives. She immediately called Judy. Judy said that the tornado missed their house but destroyed a great deal of the church she attends a few blocks away. It also tore off the porch to the trailer in which her daughter, Sara lives. Bud was home and heard the alert on TV and yelled for Judy to lie down on the floor because he could hear it coming. She has a lot of trouble getting up and down and Bud had to help her get down. It was a very close shave.

DENA HOUSTON REPORTING:

"Received my Chronicle at my new address today (1/7).

"A friend of mine, M. D. Miller who was Principal of Pocahontas High School has a first cousin, Miller Williams who will be present at Clinton's inauguration and will read some poetry there. He puts out the University Free Press and is known world wide for his poetry. *[Dena, I feel sure he is the one Clinton asked to write a poem for the inauguration.]*

"Looks like Winona, MO and Pocahontas, AR are in for some snow -- 3 to 6 inches

they say. Now I would be quite happy if it just skipped over us. We had been having 70 degree weather when it suddenly dropped into the 30's. Everyone keeps getting colds and sinus infections. My allergies are giving me a tough time but I'll be okay.

"Had a very nice Christmas and saw all of my family. We met at my brother Delbert's house on Monday to exchange gifts, eat, and chat. On Tuesday I attended a church play where my niece, Lindsey played the part of Leah. They did the Nativity play. I attended with my mother, Mary Bailey from Pocahontas. I wish you could hear Lindsey sing! She has a lovely powerful voice and is only eleven years old.

"Didn't seem like my Christmas tree was up before it was time to take it down. There just wasn't enough days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will be the same next year but the following will be a lot better.

"Hasn't the weather been awful in California and the Northwest. Hope your property in El Segundo is okay.

(Jan 17th) Beginning tomorrow I will be assisting the cook and doing dishes etc., at the La Paloma club here. I'll still be doing flea marketing but this will give me some extra income and keep my mind busy.

It was 3 degrees this morning and only 18 at 11:00 AM, and our ground is covered with ice and snow.

"I am on Erythromycin for a sinus/bronchial infection. I'm blaming my sickness on the weather. But it won't be long until Valentine's day, I hope you are thinking of something very romantic to do for Margaret. Love to all, Dena.

[Dena, thanks again for all the nice things you did for Mom when you lived next door to her there near Pocahontas.]

Judy's report of her poltergeist is on the next page. Once when they were here, George was on a tear and John spent a lot of time trying to locate him. He hasn't visited us for several nights. Hope he is not mad at us.

Dear Chronicle,

For years, you've read about my parents' poltergeist, George, who makes horrible noises in the middle of the night, but quiets down if you yell loud enough at him. I've heard George myself and can vouch for his existence.

Well, I think that the Armstrongs have a poltergeist, too. But one with very different qualities, and no name. There are no noises or visions, no chill of cold wind. Our ghost smells.

About three months ago, right after Halloween, we noticed a very odd odor in the stairwell to our second floor. It was very strong, but hard to identify. It didn't smell like electricity or gas, though we checked out both of these possibilities, with negative results. The only thing that the smell reminds us of is burning pumpkin. You know, like when you put a candle in a carved jack-o-lantern and it burns the lid of the pumpkin - that kind of smell, not a bad smell, nothing rotten or spoiled. Just odd.

The smell lasted several hours and we searched everywhere for its source, with no luck.

Since that time, the poltergeist has returned about five times, most frequently, last weekend. John and I were watching movie. About 6:45 p.m., I ran up stairs to get something. No smell. Twenty minutes later, the movie was over and we were getting ready to meet some friends for dinner. I ran up the stairs to comb my hair and the smell was very strong.

Every time our poltergeist visits, we are fascinated to find its source. We have checked for dead animals in the attic or basement, gas leaks, shorts in the electrical wiring, we've even looked for dead flies in the ceiling light fixtures. We've found absolutely nothing that would create the smell of burning pumpkin. John thinks it's the ghost of some old jack-o-lantern from years past (after all, he is famous in the neighborhood for carving pumpkins that look like political figures.)

So now, I am presenting this mystery to the Chronicle readers. Any ideas? What should we name our poltergeist?

Love to all, Judy

You can't name him "stinko" that's the name of our nighty visitor.

How about "Oscar", the name of your pet skunk? or maybe "Punkin"

I am hoping that tomorrow will bring me at least one more letter.

Here is a joke you have heard before but don't stop me. It's so good I want to hear it again myself.

The wife said to her husband as he was leaving for work, "I bet you don't know what day this is" to which he replied, "I certainly do." But he didn't. All morning he thought and thought but could not remember. It wasn't her birthday nor their anniversary, but he wasn't taking any chances so he called the florist and sent her a dozen roses. By afternoon he still hadn't thought what day it was so he called her and told her he was taking her to dinner at an exclusive restaurant, then on the way home he bought a big box of her favorite chocolates. All during dinner he thought and thought and when they finally went home and were ready for bed he just had to ask. "Honey, I know we are celebrating a special day but what day is it?" "Oh honey, it has been the most wonderful groundhog day I have ever had." Please laugh!

Speaking of groundhogs, my brother-in-law Cecil has a birthday on the 11th. But if you plan to send him a birthday card just so you can get in his will, don't waste your money, -- it won't work, I've tried that. But, in case you want to send him one, his address is

Cecil S. Jinks, 315 South Grand,
Lyons KS 67554.

My cousin-in-law Cecil Sitz has a birthday on Feb. 20 and his address is 1627 S.B. Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL 32347

My cousin Herman Reasons and his wife Lillie (my cousin in law) will be celebrating the same birthday this year, February 28. (On leap year, Lillie celebrates on the 29th) Their address is: The Cambridge, 2900 South Jefferson, Apt 130, Springfield, MO 65807 .

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The only groundhog we have around here is a cute little ceramic one, which, if I set him in the window, has a shadow, whether he wants to see it or not

Excerpt from from Margaret Ann Apperson's letter: " I'm sure those of you who live in Northern New Mexico get tired of cold and snow but we ski buffs who only get to come once or twice a year love to hear that the mountains have a snow base of 60 inches. We, the four White girls, will be making our annual trip to Angel Fire on February 15. Of course we are looking forward to seeing you.

"The White Clan had a wonderful Christmas when five of Mom and Dad's six children plus a few grandchildren gathered in Lubbock. (Martha, whose father-in-law passed away on Thanksgiving Day, could not be with us.)

"Our family increased significantly last summer when Bryan, our youngest son married a very sweet young woman with three children. Together with his own little girl he now has three girls and a boy. Added to the seven grandchildren we already had, makes a totla of 10 grandchildren. Our oldest, Trac Bellington, will be 18 in March. It seems only yesterday he was born -- where does time go???

Love, Margaret Ann

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I have it straight from the horse's mouth: Old Ornery is not considering adding all the Chronicle Family to his will. No, I don't know why.

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I think that by the time you read this I will have an e-mail address. If so, you will find me at ydnomh@laplaza.org (all lower case letters). That ought to be easy to remember - just my name spelled backward. So far I'm not able to download, so don't send me anything for the Chronicle, yet.

I talked to sister Jessie yesterday. They have returned from a visit to the Vycitals in the Phoenix area to the cold weather in Colorado Springs and she promised a letter soon telling about their visit.

Bye for now, See you soon. *Harrison*