



Thoughts, Themes, Topics

1992

Christmas Past

December has a schedule. It's the appointed anointed time for love, remembrance and seasonal greetings. And on schedule, cards arrive - brilliant reds, greens and golds, the glister of type styles ornate and ordinary. Some old-fashioned snow scenes. Silvery doves over a peace pennant. A Currier & Ives woodcut of horsemen with wind-whipped scarves afloat. A rooking home. Children on a sled. Each card heralding its own version of Merry Christmas, Seasons Greetings or Holiday Wishes. All on display in our Par.

December is also the time we ready our annual commentary. Its arrival erratic, its contents unpredictable, its boundaries unbridled. Its views highly subjective and its title a toss up.

Two years ago sci-fi whiz Ray Bradbury named this, "The Jackdaw" based on the scavenger bird who builds its nest from random pickings of any glittery, glitzy object that attracts its marauding eye. Should we have a new title for 1992? Not so. Yuletide mail repeatedly asked "When do we get the new Jackdaw?"

So be it.

Readers rule. Herewith Jackdaw III - and belated greetings for the season and a come-what-tardy but hardy (and fervent) wish to you for the Happiest of New Years.

RJC

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Hear Chris Hegarty's story?

He walks into a car dealership, sees all the floor salesmen huddled together in one corner. One is elected to go see him. "Sorry I can't help you now. We're having a sales meeting."

[Wonder what the topic of the meeting was: Closing sales?]

On the other hand...

Never ask the tire salesman if you need new tires.

A way with words

Wrote to Frank Larkin in Ireland and asked for a few \$20 goldpieces. Wanted to make them into necklaces for all our Irish-bred Considine girls.

A bag of coins arrived. I asked "how much?" Here is the answer: "Sure, Gold we can buy. Friendship we can't. If they give pleasure to other people, I've got my reward. Here's a lovely Christmas." - Emer O'Driscoll and Frank.

Government is not elegance. It is not reason. It is a force. Like fire, a dangerous servant and a fearful master.

-George Washington.
Glory is fleeting but obscurity is forever.

-Napoleon.
How come there haven't history guys came up with that great slogan? "Woe there I'd quickly that I was."

Cogent explanations...

A 7 year old was trying to explain to his 6 year old brother how the door at the supermarket opens automatically. When the 6 year old arrived at the store he was looking all around for the "electric guy" who opens the doors.

Well...that's what his brother said:

Daddy know that in Carderfee Arizona there is an intersection at Rio and Hum Boulevard? Aren't you glad I told you?

Driver asked a liberal-minded mechanic to check and see if the turn signals on the car were working. Standing in the back the mechanic announced "Yes. No. Yes. No. Yes."

Sad news

From age 3 to 5, 98% of kids are classed as Cereia.
5 years later the percentage is down to 32%.
5 more years and the level of really talented is 10%.
If they are born Originals, must they become Copies?

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Isabelisms

Granddaughter age 4. She sat commutes to visit her Grandmother. (Grandmother has several thousand of her own frequent flier miles).

Some Isabel is mounting the steps to board the plane. With automatic airline smile, the flight attendant leans over patronizingly and says, "Well, welcome aboard little lady." To which Miss 4-year-old says, "I'm not a little lady. I'm a little kid and where's my seat?" (There may be trouble ahead.)

On during dinner the night before her first day in a new school, the little one lays her head on the dining room table and says "Mom, I'm really nervous about the new school." Before Mother Lisa can muster encouraging words, Isabel lets her head and says, "But I'll be OK as soon as I find out where the bathroom is and where my cubby is." (Toomanyplace, one to a kid.) We should all agree to easily.

Way to say it!

"Meeting him was like opening a bottle of champagne" - (Winston Churchill meeting Franklin Roosevelt).

"Two heads are better than one - especially if the other one is you." (Someone complimented).

Sometimes a good scare is worth a lot more than good advice.

I changed my life today. What did you do?

- Paul Newman in *The Verdict*.

Advice: Never get in a line for anything where the guy in front of you is wearing a stocking mask. (Johnson says R.C.)

Picky picky...

Once I got into Murray Bigelow's video as a passenger. I was also his guest in *Atlantic City*. It was a nice car but I spotted a slightly frayed white paper bag on my side of the front window.

I pointed this out to Murray.

He stopped. Tipped his head down, raised it, looked at me and said in a quiet voice, "That's an uncle one who was visiting my aunt who had just redecorated and painted her apartment."

She said, "So what do you think of the new color. Sid?"

And Sid said "Did you pay for the paint yet?"

Then Murray put the car in gear and drove off without another word.

(Another version: If you get free tickets, don't complain about the show.) Lesson learned.

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Words I have a hard time working into everyday conversations.

Anomaly. Antichloroxically. Anachronism. Amphiprotic. Amnesia - what was I saying?

Ah, Style...

A west coast is visiting the east and staying at the original and stylishly fashionable Boston City Center. Halfway through the after-dinner beauty in the lobby is called to the lounge. He is escorted to her that they once upstairs.

Scrawling the room number and tip on the bill they rose, brandy glasses in hand and entered the hallway. A very quick quiet server appeared and whispered, "Sir, may I carry your brandy?" There is a house rule about no drinks in the corridor. Together the trio enters the elevator and as they do, the server turns, gracefully extends the brandy willows to him and her, smiles. "But there is no rule against drinking in the elevator. Good night Sir...Madame."

Country wisdom

Don't bother bragging; the whole don't move the train.

Middle-aged when you have two choices and you take the one that gets you home earlier.

Saw a truck getting gas. Had this sign, P.D.O. on the bumper. "That's your dad?" "Nope," he says. "Lesson my old man taught me - Forget It, Drive On." Uh huh.

Are times tough?

Man said "I'm as broke as the Ten Commandments."

Is he a good man? Did I try poker with him over the telephone? (Bill Gates)

Some things I like:

Chairs that accommodate fish, very quietly.

Shower with nail force - backhoe!

Silb.

Stairs at traffic lights you'll never see again.

Straight lock posture people.

Stephen Scaugh's registered diadem when he movie-fights

That tripping scrape and scumch of ice and blades and the smooth body-blending symmetry of Olympic ice dancing.

Those new people close to who know when not to talk.

Big thick-warm fishermen sweaters.

Competency. Anyplace.

Big hand music so exciting it makes you shout. -YEAH!

Words to live by...

I know, like we all know, that there's been hard at work on a "crisis" project. Instead I yelled.

Have you yelled lately? It's great for the brain. Like opening the front cage door of the mind. Idea fly. Tiramis drop to the bottom of the cage.

One hour passed. I was relaxed, glad of ideas of great long term promise. Then guys started talking in the phone.

The phone rang. "There you heard, good stories lately?" I knew who that was. No. I confessed... and spilled my guts into the phone.

He said, "You were wrong. Always trust your intuition."

Will that help you sometime this year?

Truth:

You're only young once.

But you can be immature forever.

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Sage Stuff

Don't let what you can do interfere with what you can do. Men always want to be a woman's first love. Women are much more subtle; they want to be a man's last romance.

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. (Attention: Jennifer)

You are the same today as you will be three years from now except for two things - the people you meet and the books you read.

Is he dumb? Without it was a sign I'm kinda dumb pack and he spent the rest of the day trying to open it. (Not you, Al Filley)

On advising friends. Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from friend's forehead. (Crimson proverb)

Ideas are everywhere!

Did you ever know that Don Isaac, producer of **40 Minutes**, invented "spoons" (the words superimposed on the screen)?

At the 1992 Republican convention while he was eating in a greasy spoon restaurant he looked up one of those black and white menu boards where the letters are stuck in one at a time.

He bought the board and letters for \$20. And while Walter Cronkite commended. Right, for the first time on national television, was able to identify the politicians on the convention floor - by name - with his \$20 letters. Yikes!

Sales is a contact sport.

[How about that for a seminar title?]

P.S. On a tip from Mike Perry we have "Used computers" and are putting on Pasadena Great Brain Bobby all-day seminars each quarter. Call for dates.

Books

One of the gems is "Children's Letters to God". The 545 pages are reproductions of the scrawled handwriting collected by Stuart Hampshire and Eric Marshall.

Whims the title.

How did you know you were God? (Signed) Charles.

What does he mean. Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison.

Dear God. Are you invisible or just a real? Lucy.

Dear God. Are there any psychiatrists around today? Patrick.

God, I Reverend Osee a friend of yours, or do you just know him through business? Doris.

God, please send Dennis Clark to a different camp this year. Your friend Peter.

Dear God. Did I think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tue. That was good. Eugene.

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English well talking...or

American is spooned everywhere now.

Sign in a Bucharest hotel lobby. The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we request you will be unboatable. In a Rome laundry. Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time. In a Bangkok city classroom drop your pants here for a wash.

Japan, (air conditioner instructions). Cools and Heats: if you want just condition of warm in your room, please control yourself.

In an Asquitos resort: the manager has personally passed all the water served here.

In a Paris hotel. Please leave your valises at the front desk. (But of course)

Governmental wisdom...

The federal courts ruled that the White House cannot destroy compartmentalized government records without first making backup copies.

4 I's

If you're not interested, how can it be interesting?

If you're losing a tug of war with a sister, give him the rope before he gets your arm. You can always buy a new rope.

If you aren't nervous, then why are you wearing your veins on the outside of your body?

If you absolutely insist on being different just for the sake of being different, you can always come down in the morning with a sock in your mouth. (Lou Barrett)

Stonewall breacher

Bob Melton couldn't get an appointment. The prospect was totally scheduled, totally scheduled no matter when or how far in advance Bob called. Humm. Ummm. Then - what? Joe Warden calls an *ALA* - happened.

A bakery supplied the cake. The line file came from a hardware store. The message was "You're obviously impressed with your schedule. Use this to break out and call me."

Did I write? Not only for the Melton Man but when he told this story in our December "Great Brain Bobby" seminar.

Alan Smart, a designer, stole the skin, doubled the order for cakes and files and got past two major movie studios in Hollywood. (The recipe is yours.)

Asked how he would like to be remembered, Thorpud Marshall said, "He did what he could with what he had."

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The greatest way to live with honor in this world is to be what we pretend to be.



We are still getting phone calls and faxes from old numbers.

Take a minute and put these in now, so we can stay in touch in 95.

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For those who missed the last 3 or 5 years of Jackdaws, we have some extras. Fax, write, phone.

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