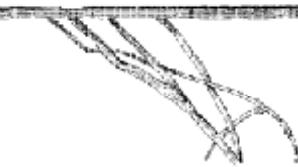


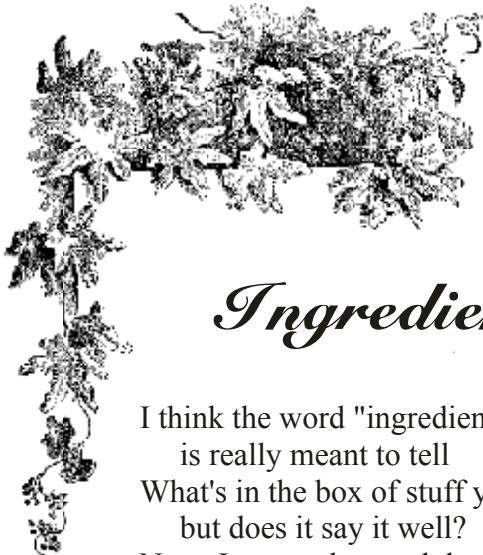
7
NOW
CONSIDER
THIS





*Then I turned my
thoughts to consider
wisdom.* Ecclesiastes 2:12





Ingredients

I think the word "ingredients"
is really meant to tell
What's in the box of stuff you buy,
but does it say it well?
Now, I can understand the words
like butter, eggs, and salt,
But when they use those fancy words,
it's there where I default.

If something is "hydrolyzed,"
"bromated," or "preserved,"
I wonder if it's safe to eat,
or should it not be served?
Now soy, and whey,
and parsley flakes--
from those I would not shrink,
They sound like pretty healthy stuff,
at least that's what I think.

But what is sulfite, BHA,
and BHT to boot?
It doesn't sound like vegetables,
nor does it sound like fruit.
I wonder how our stomachs stand
this foreign sounding stuff;
It must be that our bodies
are built strong and really tough.

I guess you'll have to make the choice
of what you want to eat;
To some folk it's a problem,
while to others it's a treat.
Now when you read what's in the box,
decide on what you think--
If you don't like the things it says,
just pour it down the sink.



*Get On
With It!*



If you want a vacation don't just stay at home.
Get out of the house. Get away from the phone.
Escape from TV. Get away from the news.
Just close up the house. Go wherever you choose.

There are caves to explore, there are mountains to climb;
There are rivers to cross if you'll just take the time.
There are fences to mend, there are castles to build,
Get on with your life and be really fulfilled.

So don't make your life just all work and no play--
Start planning your trip and then get on the way.
It's easy to wait and think "maybe next year,"
There's no guarantee you will even be here.

Don't save all your money and pile up your cash
There's no way to know that the market won't crash.
There's many a man when death gives him a glance
Would give his right arm if he had one more chance.

So start doing now what is deep in your heart.
Throw caution away. It is now time to start.
Relax and enjoy, and love God and all men.
You might even make it past three score and ten.

The Calorie Counter

I have a calorie counter
that goes everywhere with me,
And if I eat unwisely,
it's for all the world to see.
I may be skinny as a rail,
or I may be too fat,
But if you watch the TV ads,
I soon can handle that.

Just exercise with bike and weights,
and eat some special stuff,
I'd surely lose unwanted pounds--
it's really not that tough.
I guess if I were really smart
I'd not indulge so much.
And all those things that taste so good
I'd never, never touch.

So it's a hard decision
as to what I ought to eat,
But while I'm trying to decide
I'll fix myself a treat.



Pre-approved

We get a lot of envelopes
that come through U.S. mail,
A lot of it is useless
as it tells of stuff for sale.

Among the offers in our box
come words that sound like this:
"You're pre-approved for Visa,
with our interest you can't miss."

But if you get your glasses out
and read the print so small
That's printed on the back, you know,
you won't give them a call.

But let me tell you, friend of mine,
an offer you can trust
And it's found in the Bible
by a God who's true and just.



You're pre-approved for Heaven
 if you give to Him your heart,
But just like any credit card
 you have to do your part.

God doesn't print the details
 in small letters you can't read,
It's written there in black and white
 to tell you what you need.

The reason you are pre-approved
 is that God gave His Son
And by His death upon the Cross
 He turns away not one.

So talk to God, He'll change your heart
 and make it new and clean,
And thank Him that you're pre-approved--
 He'll know just what you mean.



Players and Watchers

Most folks who see a baseball game
do not participate;
They're simply watching someone else
bat balls across the plate.
So they are an observer
watching others play the game;
Observers and participants
are simply not the same.

Then there are those who go to church
and don't participate,
Although at times you'll see them drop
an offering in the plate.
But often they will just observe
the folks who are devout,
And watch the clock while gath'ring wool
till service is let out.

And we who live on planet earth
are pretty much the same;
Some folks will really get involved
and truly play life's game.
But some will not participate,
they only will observe,
Then wonder why they feel so blue
like they've been
thrown a curve.





Take A Power Nap

I have a neat suggestion that
I'd like to share with you;
When you feel tired and all worn out
there's one thing you could do.

Just find yourself a nice soft chair,
remove your shoes and cap,
And settle down, and close your eyes
and take a Power Nap.

Then when you waken from your sleep
I'm sure that you will find
That worries that you had before
are now quite out of mind.

With body rested and refreshed
put on your shoes and cap
Rememb'ring you can always take
another Power Nap.

Arguments

I'm not too much on arguing,
I've found it doesn't pay
To tell another person off
and spoil a happy day.

Most things that people fight about
aren't really worth a dime,
So why upset the apple cart
and waste a fella's time?

To get a person's hackles up
and tell folks where to go
Will not make for much happiness,
nor will "I told you so!"

It really doesn't matter, folks,
who wins a savage fight;
It's better far to give a smile,
and then sleep well at night.



Building Your Patience Skills

I wonder if it gets your goat
when you call on the phone
And want to talk to someone else
but sit there all alone
And hear a voice recorded there
that gives you lots of choice
To push some numbers on your phone
to hear another's voice:
Push one, push two, push three or four,
or maybe even five,
It takes so long to reach someone--
could they still be alive?
Sometimes a person longs a bit
for older, simpler ways
When one could reach the party called
without an endless maze.
But this is progress, so they say,
and so, oh, friend of mine,
You now can build your patience skills
while waiting on the line.

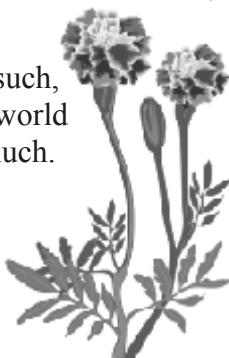


Upgrading

It seems the world keeps telling us
 that we should all upgrade,
And so we have much info now--
 and lots of dough we've paid.
Because we've information
 doesn't mean we get more smart
Unless we do the things we learn
 and practice them in part.

I think I'll let the other folks
 upgrade on what they will,
And I'll just watch from my tent door
 as they their wants fulfill.
I kinda' like the simple life,
 not one that's too high tech,
For if I spend more than I have
 I'll be a nervous wreck.

If we're too busy to relax,
 ignoring friends and such,
Then all the upgrades in the world
 will not amount to much.



The Rear View Mirror

Throw out your rear-view mirror, folks,
Stop living in the past,
And keep your mind on what's ahead
Or you may come in last.
It's not too smart to think about
Mistakes from way back when,
It makes no sense to ruminate
On things that might have been.
If you can hum and sing and smile
While looking straight ahead
You'll find there's lots to live for yet,
You need not live in dread.
So scrap that rear-view mirror, friend,
I think you'll surely find
It's better far to look ahead
And not at what's behind.



Only At Mom's

When I go to a restaurant
I cannot figure out
How they can cook so much good food
with dishes all about

With not a smell of baking bread,
of roast, or barbecue,
Or waffles, bacon, casseroles,
potato soup, or stew.

They give no good aroma
like when Mother used to cook
And things smelled good around the house,
you didn't have to look

To see what made a hearty meal,
your nose would lead you there,
And you could hardly wait to eat
and settle in your chair.



But now you need your eyes along
to tell you what to buy
Or you'd be in an awful fix
on just which dish to try.

I wish they'd leave those cooking smells
right where they used to be;
It sure would add an awful lot
to all the food we see.

I'd like to have an eating place
have coffee that you smell,
I have no doubt that this would make
that yummy stuff to sell.

I've just about decided
that good smells are now passe.
If I want smells like I've described
I'll eat at Mom's today.



Take Your Choice

Sometimes our skies seem pretty gray
and we start feeling blue
And we've kinda' hit some speed bumps,
so what's a guy to do?
We can either slip into a rut
our anxious thoughts have dug
Or we can sing a song to God
and He'll give us a hug.

Life is kinda' what we make it,
we can sing or we can pout,
But if we have a happy heart
it shows from inside out.
So if you find life tough and mean
you need to get a song
For life is so much better
when you have the Lord along.



The Web

We hear about the world-wide web
and what its s'posed to be,
I'm not too sure I understand
its benefits for me.
I feel quite sure the dots and coms
are pretty fancy stuff,
But if you're in big trouble, folks,
its really not enough.
God has a line direct to you;
He waits for you to call,
He never is too busy
though He watches over all.
A lot of folks don't seem to use
the world-wide web of prayer,
And feel that God's too far away
to hear, or even care.
But millions of believing folks
like God's old saintly Job
Believe the Lord with all their heart
from all around the globe.



Candlelight

Do you remember years ago
you ate by candlelight,
And things were quite romantic then
with future looking bright?

But years have passed; time took its toll
and things aren't quite the same,
Some vital parts are wearing out--
and kinda' seems a shame;
The candles on the table
have been put quite out of sight,
And in their place are jars of pills
for you and for your wife.

But don't despair about all this
and think you are not blest,
You've pills to make it through the day
to help you get your rest.
So if you're young and candles glow
and life is quite romantic,
Be thankful for those colored pills
that help when you're rheumatic.





Christmas

A lot of folks like Christmas
with its gifts and mistletoe,
It seems some folks are happier
most anywhere they go.
They like to think of Jesus Christ
asleep on bed of hay
But some folks seem to leave Him there
and kinda' walk away.

The wise men and the shepherds
make a pretty Christmas scene
But Christmas is much more than that
with colors red and green.
God gave His greatest Gift to us—
His very, very best
So we could have eternal life
and be forever blessed.

Christ Jesus in the manger, friends,
is nice, but there is more--
He asks us all to follow Him,
no matter rich or poor.
We are Christ's hands and feet, you know,
and we should do our part,
But most important we should have
Christ born within our heart.

Precious In God's Sight

Sometimes folks worry needlessly
about a lot of stuff;
They wonder what will others think
if times for them are tough.

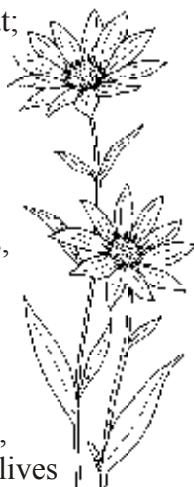
Their house is not on Easy Street,
plus they don't feel too good;
It seems they've lots of problems, too,
more than they feel they should.

Their car's not really up to snuff--
all waxed and shiny new,
And they don't wear designer clothes,
and that's a worry, too.

The self-help books don't solve too much,
They need much more than that;
They wonder if some other folks
have sat where they have sat.

It seems their sky is seldom blue,
but rather endless gray--
But if they'd count their blessings,
folks,
they'd have a brighter day.

Some folks sure need reminding
they are precious in God's sight,
And if they'd let Him touch their lives
things would turn out all right.



Church Bells



I know it's been a long, long time
since I've heard church bells ring
To call the faithful folks around
to worship and to sing.

It seems the bell could then be heard
about a country mile
And Mom and Dad with kids would go
and get refreshed awhile.

We've lots of churches in our town
and if each had a bell
And they all rang on Sunday morn
they'd have a tale to tell
Reminding folks it's time for church
and it's a special place
To leave their worries far behind
and learn of love and grace.

So if you do not hear a bell
and have to watch the clock,
Just stir yourself and go to church
and join God's faithful flock.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me.
"Let us go up to the house of the Lord."*
Psalm 122:1