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*When Things
Are Tough*



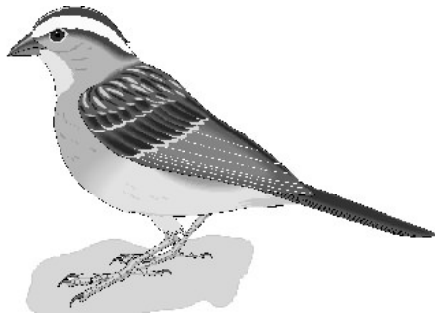
*I said, Oh that I had
the wings of a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest--
I would flee far away
and stay in the desert;
I would hurry to my place
of shelter
far from the tempest and storm.
Psalm 55:7,8*

Smile a Lot

Smile a lot, friends, smile a lot,
You never know how long you've got
So while you travel planet earth
Keep smiling big for all you're worth.
God doesn't tell how long you'll stay
So live your best from day to day.
If you've no smile upon your face
You might give up and leave this place.

God made a lot of pretty stuff
So you could smile when things get tough.
Don't let your life go down the drain
Though problems come along with pain.
God knows how much your heart can bear
And He'll stand by you anywhere.

Count up the blessings that you've got
Forget the things that you have not.
A smile can heal a bunch of ills
That can't be helped by lots of pills.
So get your heart in tune today
You'll find a smile will make your day.



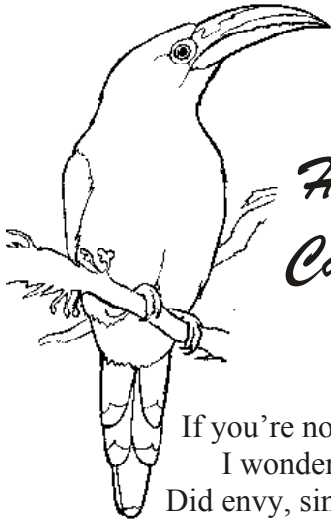
God In Our Corner

Life can be pretty tough, you know,
When pain sets in and steps are slow.
Sometimes we'd like to run and hide
Until our aches and pains subside.
It often takes a lot of pluck
To hum and sing when we are stuck,
Especially when we have no friend
Who's in our corner and can lend
A helping hand to see us through
When we don't know just what to do,
And no one cares a little bit
As in our rocking chair we sit.

But let me tell you, friend of mind,
God's in our corner and He's kind
And if we've come to our wit's end
He lets us know He is our friend.

If God be for us,
who can be
against us.
Romans 8:31





*Happy
Campers*

If you're not a happy camper
I wonder what went wrong--
Did envy, sin, or jealousy
deprive you of your song?
A lot of folks have problems
with this very sort of thing,
If there is hatred in your heart
it's tough to hum and sing.

Forgiveness is a magic word
that helps to make things right,
Apologizing also works
to make your burden light.
So take a bit of time, my friend,
and sit down in your chair
And check what's in your heart and mind
and see what's brewing there.

No matter if your life is short
or if it's pretty long
A person's mighty foolish
if you live without a song.

Forgive whatever grievances you may have
against one another. Forgive as the Lord
forgave you. Colossians 3:13

When Clouds Hang Low

It's hard to stay on top th' heap
 when troubles come our way
And realize they come to pass
 and do not come to stay.
No matter how much dough we have
 or if we're mighty poor
We'll find some days all we can do
 is simply to endure.

Some days when clouds are hanging low
 and darken up our skies
God knows just how we feel inside,
 to Him it's no surprise.
But if we talk to Him a bit
 and tell Him we can't cope
He just might send an angel down
 to bring us joy and hope.

So don't give up, my hurting friend,
 and think God's far away
For if we give Him all our heart
 He hears each word we say.
God never is a loser; He heads up
 the winning team
And if we tell Him we need help
 He'll know just what we mean.



Clutter

If you could see inside your heart
I wonder what you'd find--
Is it all cluttered up with junk,
or have you peace of mind?
It might be good to rid your soul
of stuff that doesn't pay,
If you've hard feelings in your heart
it's no good anyway.
It sure can load a fella' down
to harbor all that stuff,
Besides it turns your sky to gray
and leaves you feeling tough.
So rid yourself of clutter
that you've gathered here and there
And ruminate on happy thoughts
while rocking in your chair.
Be careful what you say to folks
and keep your words all sweet
For they will taste much better
if those words you have to eat.





Unraveled

Has your life become unraveled
and living's pretty tough,
Is it hard to do the things you should
to keep life up to snuff?
Sometimes we make mistakes, you know,
and get ourselves fouled up
And days on end we try to live
with just an empty cup.

A lot of folks have gone this route
and feel that life's a bore,
But if they'd give their heart to God
they'd find there's something more.
There is no case too hard for Him,
He knows what things are wrong
And if you do the things He says
He'll give your heart a song.

There's nothing like forgiveness
that can set a person free
And if you've kindness in your heart
I think you will agree
That living can be beautiful
and bring you love and peace,
And if you walk each day with Him
your joy will just increase.

*The
Polished
Stone*



Life has its troubles and its woes
and times can be quite tough,
In fact, some people will declare
that they have had enough;
So they give up before their time
and trials grind them down,
They seldom have a smiling face,
but often have a frown.

Yet many folks with handicaps
and trials hard to bear
Will make the very best of life
e'en though its not too fair.
Instead of bitterness and hate
and blaming things on God
They use the things they still have left,
and laugh, and smile, and nod.

They're not content to be worn down
and feel they're all alone,
Instead they let life's ups and downs
make them a polished stone.

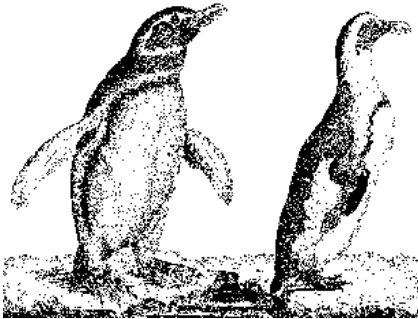
And we know that in all things God works for
the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28

Making a Hit

When folks get old it's doubly hard
for them to change their ways,
They like to do the way they've done
for many years and days.
It's kinda' comfortable to do
the way they've always done
For they have learned down through the years
how some things oughta' run.

When oldsters see newfangled ways
they know they'll have to change
Or they will be out in the cold
because they're kinda' strange.
When folks get old some parts wear out
but one thing they can do
Is keep a song tucked in their heart
that will their strength renew.

So if you're in that awkward stage
where you've slowed up a bit
If you love folks with all your heart
you're sure to make a hit.



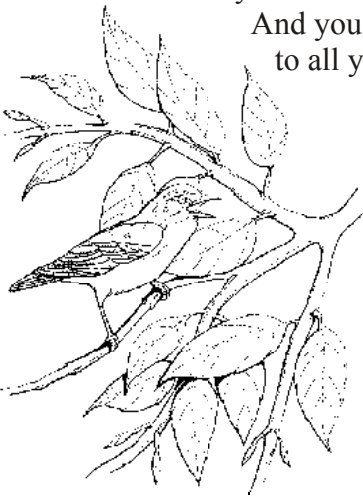
The Complainers

Some folks have lots of blessings
but they do not count 'em much
And they complain because they want
more things to hold and touch.

Somehow they feel they should be served,
but not a servant be,
And so they miss the best in life
for giving is the key.

When Jesus Christ came down to earth
He served from day to day
And gave us an example
so that we could live that way.

Now if the Lord lives in your heart
you'll find you've peace within
And you will stop complaining
to all your friends and kin.



If you live in America
your life is not too tough--
Some folks in foreign countries
never, never have enough.

If you're unhappy take a trip
to some far distant shore
Like Africa or India,
or maybe Singapore.

God likes the folks who sing and hum
and thank Him every day
For all the blessings they enjoy
when they bow down and pray.

So if you are unhappy
and your life has lost it's zest
God's good at fixing hurting hearts
and He can do it best!

*I have learned
the secret of being
content in
any and every
situation
Philippians 4:11*



Home

I know folks live in mansions,
while some others live in flats;
Of course some folks like trailer life
and take along their cats;

And then there are the condo folks,
and some in villas dwell,
Still others have a house on stilts
and make out pretty well.

Some folks live in a pent house
and can watch the scene below;
Still others may live on a boat
and move about, you know.

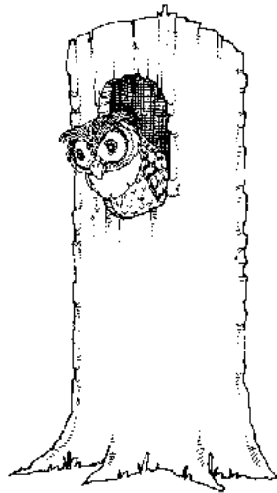
I'm not sure how the folks in caves
survived with little sun
Or how the folks who lived on cliffs
relaxed when day was done.



I've also seen some castles
that were lived in long ago,
And England has a palace
where the Queen walks to and fro.
An igloo is a home to some--
I'm not sure if they rent;
It really matters little
if your home is hut or tent.

But what I want to say is this:
no matter where you dwell
If there's not love within your home
you won't sleep very well.

Sometimes we find that life is hard
and times may be quite tough,
But somehow we can win and sing
if we have love enough.





*They
Missed
a Lot*

I've seen a lot of years roll by,
I've seen a lot of change,
I'd guess the youngsters of today
think oldsters are quite strange.

No doubt they wonder how the folks
who lived so long ago
Could live without computers
and some other stuff, you know,
Like videos and cell phones,
and a pair of Nike shoes
Along with name-brand shirt and pants
like other fella's choose.

They've never seen a Model T
that started with a crank,
And Cokes and Pepsis cost too much
so these they seldom drank.
A lamp that used just kerosene
they never studied by
And when they think of one-room schools
they shrug and even sigh.

They can't remember when the stores
weren't open day and night
And folks would only get to shop
when it was broad daylight.
They've never seen Fels Naptha soap
on washboard in a tub
When women washed the family's clothes
and they would scrub and scrub.

I know the young folks of today
have missed a lot of stuff
That oldsters had to deal with then
when times were really tough.
But when I reminisce a bit
and think on it awhile
I'm glad I have these memories.
They kinda' make me smile