

Jerry McKelvy's
WAY BACK WHEN
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A BAND OF COUNTERFEITERS

It is reasonable to assume that small towns usually have fewer crimes than larger cities, mainly because there are fewer people in the small towns. When a crime happens in a town of 200 people or less and several people are involved, it generates much excitement.

Such was the case in the small community of Bodcaw in the fall of 1894. Bodcaw, located in southern Nevada County, Arkansas, was not even an incorporated town in 1894—just a small community with probably less than 200 people. For several weeks, counterfeit silver coins were showing up in Bodcaw and surrounding counties. Residents of Bodcaw decided to write to Washington, D. C. for help in investigating this and bringing those responsible to justice. The Secret Service, which has the duty of investigating cases involving counterfeiting, send an agent, W. L. Vick to Bodcaw to investigate this case. Mr. Vick was considered one of their best agents and worked tirelessly on the case. It turned out that twenty well-known and respected citizens of the Bodcaw community were involved, included merchants, cattle dealers, farmers, and a blacksmith. At the time this story was reported in the Texarkana newspaper, ten of the men had been sent to prison and warrants had been issued for the others.

It was reported that Berry Huckaby, a local blacksmith, had made the molds used to make the counterfeit coins. He had experimented with different molds until he found one that was perfect for making the coins. It was reported that he had disposed of about 200 imperfect molds and imperfect coins in a nearby creek.

This case surprised the other residents of Bodcaw who never suspected that their heretofore respected neighbors would be involved in such a thing as counterfeiting.

Reading about this case reminded me of something that happened in the 1960s when I was attending Southern State College in Magnolia, Arkansas. I had a part-time job of

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collecting money from all the soda machines on campus for which I was paid fifty cents per hour. I walked all over campus with about twenty money bags over my arm (one for each soda machine). I would not want to do that job these days.

When I finished my rounds, I took the bags of money to the business office where I had a small desk to count and roll the coins. I also had to keep records for each soda machine. During the time I had that job, I counted and rolled over \$30,000 in nickels, dimes, and quarters.

One day, I found some pennies that had been filed down to the size of a dime in one of the soda machines in one of the dormitories. I reported this and in the days that followed, more of these filed-off pennies appeared in the coin box of that machine and one or two others. Someone was taking the time to file these pennies down to the size of a dime and using them in the machine to buy sodas. It seemed like an awful lot of work just to save a few cents.

After more of these defaced coins kept showing up, the business manager called the Secret Service to investigate. From what I was told, they soon had a suspect in mind, but before the investigation was complete, that student dropped out of school. No more filed-off pennies showed up after he left school and as far as I know, he was never prosecuted.

18 U.S.C. 331 says, *“Whoever fraudulently alters, defaces, mutilates, impairs, diminishes, falsifies, scales, or lightens any of the coins coined at the mints of the United States, or any foreign coins which are by law made current or are in actual use or circulation as money within the United States; or*

Whoever fraudulently possesses, passes, utters, publishes, or sells, or attempts to pass, utter, publish, sell, or brings into the United States any such coin, knowing the same to be altered, defaced, mutilated, impaired, diminished, falsified, scaled, or lightened, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

What about putting a penny on a railroad track? That, too, is illegal although it is frequently done. Your chances of finding the penny after the train runs over it are slim. You could be charged with trespassing or worse if you happened to be caught on camera doing it.

What about drilling a hole in a coin and using it as jewelry? You are not likely to be prosecuted for drilling a hole in a coin for use as jewelry. However, coins with holes in them are usually not accepted as payment.

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What about defacing or altering paper currency? Here is what the law says: 18 U.S.C. 333 : US Code - Section 333: Mutilation of national bank obligations states:

"Whoever mutilates, cuts, defaces, disfigures, or perforates, or unites or cements together, or does any other thing to any bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt issued by any national banking association, or Federal Reserve bank, or the Federal Reserve System, with intent to render such bank bill, draft, note, or other evidence of debt unfit to be reissued, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both."

A few weeks ago, I noticed that a dollar bill in my wallet had a hole in it about the size of a dime right over part of George Washington's portrait. When I tried to use that bill in at our local Dollar General store, the clerk told me they could not accept it. I ended up taking it to a bank which replaced it. The teller said she would put it in with the rest of the mutilated money. I suppose banks have some procedure to follow regarding mutilated or altered money.

BIBLE QUIZ

Sometimes common sayings we hear are said to come from the Bible but they are not actually in the Bible. All the following statements are found in the Bible except fourteen. Write down or circle the numbers of the fourteen not found in the Bible (King James Version). The answers are on page 7. Good luck. DON'T PEEK!

1. Buy the truth and sell it not.
2. A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.
3. It is not good to eat much honey.
4. Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out.
5. All that glitters is not gold.
6. Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein.
7. Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
8. Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set.
9. Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
10. The chameleon may change its color, but it is the chameleon still.
11. The rich and the poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.
12. It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and an angry woman.
13. The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head.
14. Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadow.
15. Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty.
16. Wine is a mocker; strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
17. Open rebuke is better than secret love.
18. A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.
19. The venom of a female viper is more poisonous than that of a male viper.

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20. Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter.
21. There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise.
22. Money is the root of all evil.
23. Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.
24. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.
25. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
26. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full.
27. God helps those who help themselves.
28. That which is crooked cannot be made straight.
29. The eyes of man are never satisfied.
30. It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright.
31. God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.
32. He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread.
33. The sleep of a labouring man is sweet.
34. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
35. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it.
36. Two are better than one.
37. Be not rash with thy mouth and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven and thou upon earth; therefore, let thy words be few.
38. Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.
39. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
40. The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
41. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
42. Spare the rod and spoil the child.
43. A wise son maketh a glad father.
44. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
45. Is there any taste in the white of an egg?
46. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
47. None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.
48. A small leak will sink a great ship.
49. Cleanliness is next to godliness.
50. Iron sharpeneth iron.

ALBERT E. BRUMLEY SR.

One of the best-known composers of religious hymns was Albert E. Brumley who wrote about 800 songs. Most were church songs, but he also wrote many others. Some of his best-known hymns were "I'll Fly Away", "This World Is Not My Home", "If We Never Meet Again", "I'll Meet You in the Morning", "He Set Me Free", "I Found a Hiding Place", and many others which are still sung in many churches today.

Albert Brumley was born in 1905 in Indian Territory two years before Oklahoma became a state. His family lived near Spiro, Oklahoma. They were sharecroppers and made their living by picking cotton. The family was very religious and worked hard. One

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article I read mentioned that Albert was skinny when he was in school and was very shy. He wore overalls to school but wore a tie with his overalls.

Albert had an interest in music and wanted to learn how to compose songs. When he was 20 years old, he left home with \$2.50 in his pocket and hitchhiked to the Hartford Music Institute in Hartford, Arkansas where he met E. M. Bartlett. He told Mr. Bartlett about wanting to learn how to compose music and he was asked if he had the money for tuition and room and board for the music school. Albert said he had no money, so Mr. Bartlett let Albert stay in his home while he attended the school. Albert later gave Mr. Bartlett credit for his success and said it would not have been possible if he had not helped him attend the music school.

Albert published his first song in 1929. He married in 1931 and moved to Powell, Missouri in the southwestern corner of that state. Albert taught singing schools in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and continued to compose songs. He spent months working on some of his songs until he was satisfied with them. In 1943, he started his own publishing company and in 1948 purchased the Hartford Music Co. He continued to live in Powell, Missouri where he and his wife raised their family of six children.

It is said that Albert always carried a pencil and paper with him and when an idea for a song came to him, he would jot the idea down so he would not forget it. Some say his song "I'll Fly Away" has been the most recorded gospel song in history, recorded by many famous singers such as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jim Reeves, The Chuckwagon Gang, and many others. It was also sung in the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou". Albert said the idea for the song which he called "a little ditty" came to him when he was picking cotton in Oklahoma. As he picked cotton one day, he was humming a popular song at that time called "The Prisoner's Song". A phrase in that song said "If I had the wings of an angel, I'd fly away." Albert took that thought about flying away from that cotton field and turned it into his most famous song, "I'll Fly Away." That idea is also found in the Bible (Psalms 90, verse 10)—*The days of our years are threescore and ten, and if by reason of strength they be fourscore, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

I really like Albert Brumley's songs. He had a remarkable talent of being able to write and compose songs that had good messages and that sounded good. An outdoor event called the Sundown to Sunup Gospel Sing in Springdale, Arkansas was very popular for many years. The name was later changed to the Albert Brumley Memorial Gospel Music Sing which was a four-day festival. That event reached its peak in the 1990s with an average attendance of 30,000. The event was later moved to Lebanon, Missouri and then to Tulsa, Oklahoma where it is held indoors. Albert Brumley has been inducted into eight different halls of fame.

Albert Brumley Sr. died in 1977 and is buried in the Fox Cemetery close to the Fox Church of Christ near Powell, Missouri where he worshipped most of his life. If I ever get up that way, I would like to visit his grave. His grave marker would be easy to find. Part

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of one of his most famous songs called “I’ll Meet You in the Morning” is engraved on the headstone with the notes from the song. (see photo below)—*Photo credit to Betty Saltenberger (used by permission)*

Albert’s sons, Tom Brumley, Albert Brumley Jr., and Jack Brumley, are also involved in the music industry. Albert Brumley Jr. is a gospel singer and has recorded dozens of his father’s classic gospel hymns.



Answers to Bible quiz: Those not found in the Bible are underlined.

1. Proverbs 23:23; 2. Proverbs 25:11; 3. Proverbs 25:27; 4. Proverbs 26:20; 5. William Shakespeare; 6. Proverbs 26:27; 7. Proverbs 27:1; 8. Proverbs 22:28; 9. Proverbs 22:6; 10. William Shakespeare; 11. Proverbs 22:2; 12. Proverbs 21:19; 13. Proverbs 20:29; 14. Helen Keller; 15. Proverbs 20:13; 16. Proverbs 20:1; 17. Proverbs 27:5; 18. Proverbs 27:15; 19. Ben Butler; 20. Proverbs 30:33; 21. Proverbs 30:24; 22. not exact quote--See I Timothy 6:10; 23. Proverbs 18:22; 24. Proverbs 22:1; 25. Ecclesiastes 12:13; 26. Ecclesiastes 1:7; 27. Ben Franklin or Aesop’s Fable); 28. Ecclesiastes 1:15; 29. Proverbs 27:20; 30. Ben Franklin; 31. from a hymn by William Cowper; 32. Proverbs 28:19; 33. Ecclesiastes 5:12; 34. Ecclesiastes 3:1; 35. Ecclesiastes 5:4; 36. Ecclesiastes 4:9; 37. Ecclesiastes 5:2; 38. William Shakespeare; 39. Proverbs 14:12; 40. Proverbs 18:8; 41. Proverbs 15:3; 42. not exact quote (see Proverbs 13:24 and Proverbs 23:13; 43. Proverbs 10:1; 44. Ben Franklin; 45. Job 6:6; 46. Psalms 121:1; 47. Ben Franklin; 48. Ben Franklin; 49. John Wesley; 50. Proverbs 27:17

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A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

A few weeks ago, a little kitten came to my wife's grand niece's house in Illinois. She couldn't keep it because it didn't get along with the cat she already had, so she talked her mother into taking it. It was a solid black cat with a small white ring around its neck, so she named it Ringo. Ringo turned out to be nothing but trouble. It killed birds and would bring things into the house. It would sometimes be gone two or three days at a time.

One morning just before daylight, she and her husband were going fishing. They had only gone a short distance when they accidentally ran over and killed a black cat. That put a damper on their planned fishing trip. They thought it was Ringo, so they took it back to the house and buried it in the back yard. She called her mother crying about what had happened. She said she didn't really like Ringo, but she didn't want to kill him.

The next day, Ringo came home. They still don't know whose cat they buried in the back yard. Her mother said she thought about going over there and putting up a sign "The Tomb of the Unknown Cat".

A COMMENT RECEIVED--

I met "old Mike" in about 1950. On Saturdays back then my parents and I would "go to town" meaning Prescott to buy cow and chicken feed, sometimes gardening "stuff", groceries, Daddy might get a haircut, and, according to Daddy, Mother and I would "feel every "damn piece of material in the stores". Mother and I called it "shopping" whether we bought anything or not. On one Saturday I met a school friend, Jodie Higginbotham, and we were doing "teen-aged" girl things. She asked me if I had ever seen Old Mike. I hadn't, so she insisted that I must see him. I really wasn't too keen on the idea but didn't want to let her know. We went to the funeral store across from the bank. She told the man that came up front that we wanted to see "Old Mike" and he said okay and asked Jodie if she knew where he was. She assured him that she did and we went into the casket storage area (which already was making my hair stand on end) and straight over to the open coffin standing on its end and there was the preserved body of the man. He was wearing a brown suit and did not look as tall as I was. Jodie reached over and gently rubbed her finger along his preserved hand. She tugged on my hand to touch him, too, but there was no way I was going to do that! I was ready to go immediately, but Jodie wanted to linger. I told her I was leaving and she left with me. Jodie would become a nurse and I did not! ----(from Betty T. In Texas)

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THE SINGING GRAVE OF GLEN CAMPBELL



My wife and I recently made the short trip up to Delight, Arkansas, the home of Glen Campbell to find his grave in the Campbell Family Cemetery near Billstown. The little cemetery is very well-kept. There is a flag pole that is lighted at night. A short distance from his grave is a marker telling the story of Glen Campbell. As you walk by this marker, the song "Amazing Grace" begins to play sung by Glen himself. It is a nice addition to this small peaceful spot where many members of the Campbell family are buried. There were many objects left on top of his headstone including several dollars in coins.

Directions to Glen Campbell's grave: Go one mile west from Delight on Hwy. 26. Turn left at a green sign which says Billstown Rd. Follow this road about four miles. The cemetery will be on your left.

