Morning Breaks
December 2026

Volume 27 Number 49 "A Sense of Humor Keeps Life Interesting," - Marjory Peay Hinkley December 6, 2026

(These are selections from a book called "Then Some Other Things Happened", a collection of short pieces about history written by eighth graders and compiled by Bill Lawrence, a teacher and columnist. Wording and spelling have not been changed.)

PILGRAM INTERUPTERS

The Pilgrams were a bunch of English wonderers who wanted to worship as they wanted to. They excaped the Church of England and came over here because they heard that American churches were different.

The May Flower was the ship with which they came in. It didn't have a bathroom on board so there was quite an oder. Priscillia Mullins was the captain.

First the Pilgrams had gone to Holland but left when their children started developing customs there. After a stopover at Williamsbug when a large storm blew them off course they landed on a big, slimey rock in Massatusetts. They spent the winter there.

Before they got off the ship even they drew up an agreement for the people of Plymouth to agree on the voting for governors and congressmen. They kept this hid in the May Flower Compact. Lord Delaware was elected the first governor of Plymouth Rock.

A friendly Indian named Rhone Oak showed the Pilgrams how to plant corn by putting it in the ground. Rhone Oak had been the first Indian to come to America and always wanted a beer. He traveled around with Miles Standy and translated language. He knew enough English to interupt.

Another interupter for the white man was Squanto, who was called that because he was so short. Squanto drew up a declaration to give the settlers freedom of goverment in the new land. The Pilgrams gave the Indians thanks for all this and that's what started Thanksgiving.

The Pilgrams then appointed Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

Abraham Lincoln later pronounced it and gave it to them and it soon became a national holiday all around the world.

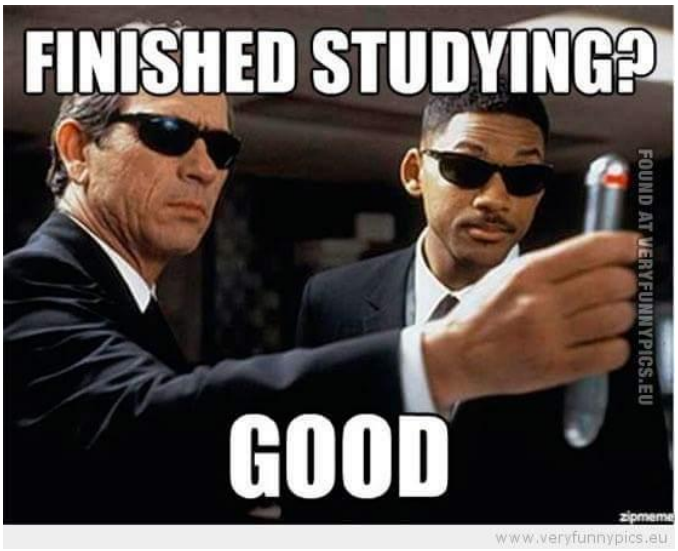
These people always wore old shoes with a big buckel on the top of them. The men wore pants that only came a little ways past the knees and the girls wore funny bonets.



My husband had just renovated our basement, and it was time to furnish it. I thought a palm tree would look great, but low light made a real one out of the question.

Then I saw a flyer advertising artificial palm trees. As my husband left to buy one, I instructed him to be sure it looked realistic.

He arrived home, excited to show me the two trees he had bought and how natural they looked. Running my fingers over the leaves and down the rough bark, I marveled at how realistic they were, too, until my fingers sank into wet earth.



Just when you think you understand 2 Nephi and Jacob this happen!

A man riding out in the woods fell from his horse and broke his leg. He was a long way out, so the situation looked pretty grim. Then the horse grabbed the man's belt in his teeth and dragged him to the shade of a nearby tree. He made the man as comfortable as he could and then galloped off to get help.

The man was discussing the incident a few weeks later. His friend was very impressed and said, "That is one intelligent horse!"

"Naah, he's not so smart. He came back with a vet."

Light bulb jokes are an innocent way to poke fun -- or so I thought.

Working as a sound technician, I asked an electrician, who was also the local union steward: "Hey, Mike. How many Teamsters does it take to change a light bulb?"

I expected the classic answer: "Twelve. You got a problem with that?"

But Mike replied in all seriousness, "None. Teamsters shouldn't be touching light bulbs."

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

The programmer's wife tells him: "Please go to the store and pick up a loaf of bread. If they have eggs, get a dozen."

The programmer comes home with 12 loaves of bread.

Teacher: Johnny, name the Ten Commandments in any order.
Johnny: 3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10 and 7.

Brother Jones, a member of the high council, spoke in his own ward for the first time since being called two years earlier.

About halfway through his talk his young energetic son entered ran down the center isle of the chapel, started making loud beeps and brrrmms like a car without a muffler, then zoomed right toward him.

Brother Jones paused in his talk, pointed severely at his son, and commanded, "Jimmy, park the car immediately beside your mother on that bench (pointing), turn off the ignition, and hand her the keys."

The boy complied, and the talk continued undisturbed ... after a good laugh by the congregation.

"Save the Earth. It's the only planet with chocolate."

Morning Breaks
December 2026

Volume 27 Number 50 *"A sense of humor keeps life interesting…" –Marjorie Pay Hinckley* December 13, 2026

I went to a restaurant where three eggs cost $8.95.

The waitress said, "Would you like them scrambled?"

I said, "No. At $3 an egg I want to count them."



At a workshop on dog temperament, the instructor noted that a test for a canine's disposition was for an owner to fall down and act hurt. A dog with poor temperament would try to bite the person, whereas a good dog would lick his owner's face or show concern.

Once, while eating pizza in the living room, I decided to try out this theory on my two dogs. I stood up, clutched my heart, let out a scream and collapsed on the floor.

The dogs looked at me, glanced at each other and raced to the coffee table for my pizza.

"Art is not what you see, but what you MAKE others see."- Edward Degas

---

I asked my two-year-old to take his dirty clothes and put them into the hamper. He looked puzzled, and I explained. "You know; it's the place where we put our dirty clothes before they're washed."

My son picked up his things, trotted into my bedroom, and dropped his clothes on the floor ... on his father's side of the bed.

(*Side Note: My wife says this isn't a joke – it's a true story.)*

My doctor told me to start my exercise program very gradually so today I drove past a store that sells sweat pants.

I went shopping with my friend, and I saw a humorous button that said, "It might look like I'm doing nothing, but on a cellular level, I'm quite busy."

I showed it to her, and her response was, "Oh, I should buy that one, I'm always talking on mine."

"I never make misakes."

When I worked for the security department of a large retail store, my duties included responding to fire and burglar alarms. A side door of the building was wired with a security alarm, because it was not supposed to

be used by customers. Nevertheless they found the convenience of the exit tempting. Even a sign with large red letters, warning "Alarm will sound if opened," failed to deter people from using it.

One day, after attending to a number of shrieking alarms, I placed a small handmade sign on the door that totally eliminated the problem: "Wet Paint."





I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. - Winston Churchill

---

Some of my co-workers and I decided to remove the small, wooden suggestion box from our office because it had received so few entries. We stuck the box on top of a seven-foot-high metal storage cabinet and then promptly forgot about it.

Months later, when the box was moved during remodeling, we found a single slip of paper inside. The suggestion read, "Lower the box!"

A fourth-grade teacher was giving her pupils a lesson in logic.

"Here is the situation," she said. "A man is standing up in a boat in the middle of a river, fishing. He loses his balance, falls in, and begins splashing and yelling for help. His wife hears the commotion, knows he can't swim, and runs down to the bank. Why do you think she ran to the bank?"

A girl raised her hand and asked,

"To draw out all his savings?"

It was the beginning of term at a primary school in Brooklyn. The teacher asked the children their names one at a time, and for each to spell their name out loud.

When she came to a young Pakistani boy and asked his name, he replied, "Ravashanka Vankataratam Bannerjee."

"How do you spell that?" asked the teacher.

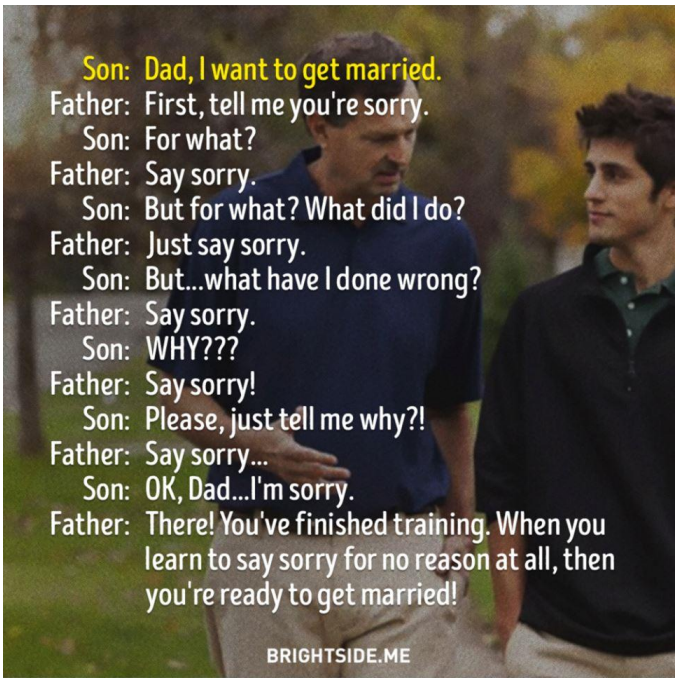
"My mother helps me," said the little boy.

All across the country, unemployment offices are swamped with people waiting to file for unemployment insurance benefits. It's gotten so bad, the offices are overwhelmed and they can't even function.

I have an idea: Why don't you hire more people?

Morning Breaks
December 2026

Volume 27 Number 51 *"A sense of humor keeps life interesting…" –Marjorie Pay Hinckley* December 20, 2026

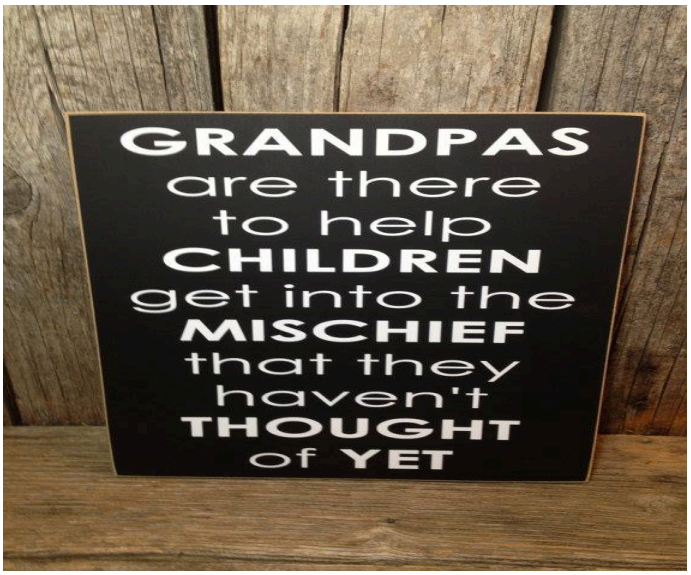


I'm not much of a gift wrapper, especially compared with the women who work at our shop. But I was the only one available the day a customer wanted a gift wrapped for his mother.

"Sorry," I said, handing back a box covered with wrinkled, oddly taped paper. "It's wrapped, but it sure looks like an amateur did it."

"Great," he said happily. "Now my mom will think I did it myself."

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the bathroom.



When the lodge meeting broke up, John confided to a friend.

"Mike, I'm in a terrible pickle! I'm strapped for cash and I haven't the slightest idea where I'm going to get it."

"I'm glad to hear that," answered Mike. "I was afraid you might have an idea you could borrow it from me!"

Eat a live toad in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you for the rest of the day.

As a young lawyer working on my first big case, I was sitting in Federal District Court watching a prominent attorney question a witness. The attorney was trying, unsuccessfully, to elicit certain information.

Finally the judge turned to the witness and asked a question that prompted the appropriate response.

"Thank you, your honor," the attorney said. "How is it that you were able to get to the crux of the matter with one question after I had tried three times?"

"Easy," replied the judge. "I'm not paid by the hour."



You can tell it's the Holiday Season!

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

While my friend Emily was visiting her mother, they went for a walk and bumped into an old family acquaintance.

"Is this your daughter?" the woman asked. "Oh I remember her when she was this high. How old is she now?"

Without pausing, Emily's mother said, "Twenty-four," Emily, 35, nearly fainted on the spot.

After everyone had said their goodbyes, Emily asked her mother why she'd told such a whopper. "Well," she replied, "I've been lying about my age for so long, it suddenly dawned on me that I'd have to start lying about yours too."

If good things come to those who wait, why is procrastination so bad?



The family was viewing old slides and one flashed on the screen that caught everyone's attention. My father, wearing his favorite golf shirt, was holding me at the tender age of three weeks.

The look on his face told all. "There's my prize possession," my father said. Touched, I smiled at him as he continued, "I wonder whatever happened to that golf shirt?"

"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." - Will Rogers

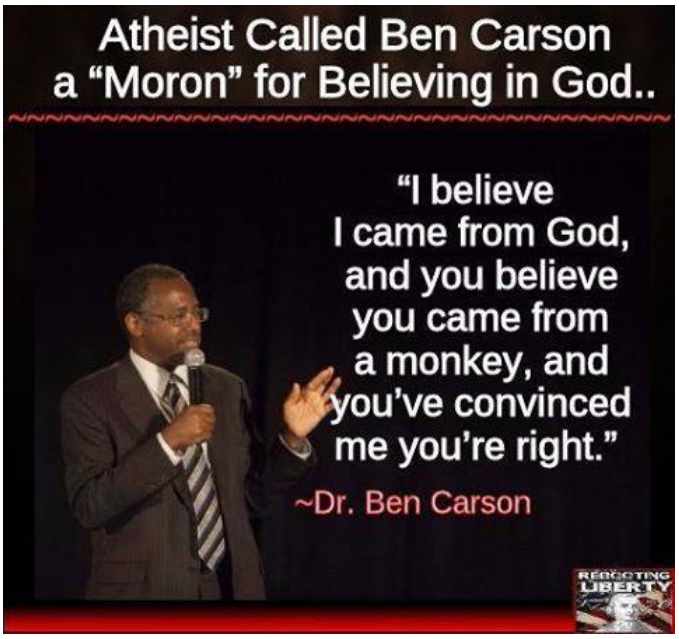
---

On the way back from a Cub Scout meeting, my grandson innocently said to my son, "Dad, I know babies come from mommies' tummies, but how do they get there in the first place?"

After my son hemmed and hawed awhile, my grandson finally spoke up in disgust, "You don't have to make up something, Dad. It's okay if you don't know the answer."

Morning Breaks
December 2026

Volume 27 Number 52 *"A sense of humor keeps life interesting…" –Marjorie Pay Hinckley* December 27, 2027



Two daughters were having a discussion about family resemblance.

"I look like Mom," said the nine-year-old, "but I have Dad's eyes and Dad's lips."

The six-year-old said, "And I look just like Dad but I have light hair."

Then she turned to her mother. "Mom," she asked, "what does Dad have to do with us being born, anyway?"

The older sister jumped right in: "Don't be silly. Dad is the one who drove Mom to the hospital."

If you think dogs can't count, put three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give your dog only two of them.

I was pulling into a gas station one day when I saw a woman drive off with the nozzle still in her gas tank. She jerked the nozzle right off the hose. Realizing what she had done, she pulled back in, took the nozzle out of the tank, and put it back on the pump. Then she went inside to straighten things out with the management.

While she was inside, a young man pulled up to the pump. He took the nozzle, with no hose attached, putting it into his tank. He couldn't seem to figure out why he wasn't getting any gas. He even took the nozzle out and repositioned it in the tank a couple times.

I thought about pointing out the obvious problem to him but then decided that he'd be embarrassed enough when he figured it out on his own.

One day I tried to reach my dad, a real charmer with the ladies, at his tennis club.

I gave a description of him to the receptionist, but she didn't recognize him. Then I gave her his name, but she didn't know him.

I gave it one more try: "He's probably told you that you're the most beautiful woman in Orlando."

She laughed and said, "I'll go get him."

Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.

I was running a tennis camp for little kids.

At the beginning, I talked to the campers about good sportsmanship. I asked "Can anyone tell me what a good sport is?"

One little 5-year-old raised his hand and said, "Baseball."



"If you'll make the toast and pour the juice, Sweetheart," said the newlywed bride, "breakfast will be ready."

"Good, what are we having for breakfast?" asked the new husband.

"Toast and juice," she replied.

Since bad golf shots come in groups of three, a fourth bad shot is actually the beginning of the next group of three.

Fred looked up from the book on ancient history he was reading and asked his father, "Dad, What's a millennium?"

"Well," the father muttered, "I think it's something like a centennial, only it has more legs."

Pay attention to two-year-olds and puppies. They know what's important.

Unexpected guests were on the way, and my mother, an impeccable housekeeper, rushed around straightening up. She put my father and brother to work cleaning the guest bathroom.

Later, when she went to inspect it, she was surprised that the once-cluttered room had been tidied up so quickly. Then she saw the note on the closed shower curtains. It read, "Thank you for not looking in the bathtub."

My canine family tends to view me as the funny-looking two-legged dog who runs the can opener.

One cold night my furnace died, so I went to my parents' house. In the morning, a neighbor called to tell me that my water pipes had burst and flooded my town house and hers. I raced home and on the way got a speeding ticket.

Then the furnace repairman arrived, found that the problem was just a fuse and told me he didn't think he had the proper fuse but would check in his truck. Meanwhile, the plumber cut holes in my bathroom wall to locate the leak.

When the furnace repairman returned, he held aloft a fuse. "I had the right one after all," he said triumphantly. "This must be your lucky day."

