

# LIFE'S LITTLE JESTS



### HANDICAPPED.

"Didn't young Grabcoen go away to college last year?"  
"Yes. He went to Harvard."  
"The institution."  
"So it is, but young Grabcoen carried along a Japanese valet, a motorcar and a bulldog. He may have picked up a few crumbs of knowledge, but I doubt it."

### News Item.

"Pearls have gone up."  
"What's that?" inquired his wife.  
"The pearl necklace that cost \$1,000 four years ago now costs \$5,000 or more."  
"There, now, John. You see what you missed by not buying me one then."

### Considerate.

"I hope the movie stars you employ try to make your business as pleasant for you as possible?"  
"Oh, yes," replied the producer, ironically. "They seem to have an idea that the larger the salaries they demand the easier it is for me to figure out my income tax."

### Strangers.

"Is that a popular novel you are reading?"  
"Not with me," replied Mr. Githersby. "I picked it up because I liked the picture of the heroine on the cover, but after reading a few chapters I discovered that the author and the artist had never met."

### Artful Candidate.

"But you can't run for two offices at the same time."  
"You don't understand politics," said the veteran campaigner. "I'm going to ballpoo for one office while I'm pussypooing for the other. In that way I can't lose."



### HER IDEA.

He—How would you like to live in a cottage by the sea?  
She—By the sea, yes, but why a cottage?

### American.

He has no need of greater pride  
Nor bigger work to brag  
Who keeps his conscience for his guide  
And serves his country's flag.

### Simple.

Mrs. A—I can't understand why your daughter flitted a rich man to marry a poor one.  
Mrs. B—It is very simple, my dear. With the one she would have had everything to lose, but with the other she has everything to gain.

### Busy Life.

"You think eight hours a day is enough work for any man?"  
"Plenty," answered Cactus Joe. "That leaves him only sixteen hours to play poker and get a little sleep."

### Great Execution.

"The violinist's execution was simply marvelous."  
"Wasn't it, though? You could see the audience hanging on every note."

### Educational.

"Is this an educational film?"  
"Well, you might call it so. Has some very interesting studies in female anatomy."

### The Varieties.

"What are the fruits of practical politics?"  
"So far, I have come across only two varieties—lemons and plums."

### The Difference.

"Last year old Silck was paying court to Miss Smart."  
"And this year he is paying her alimony."

### Why Not?

"What are you working on?"  
"You remember those old remedies advertised as good for man or beast?"  
"Yes."  
"I'm working on an anti-freezing mixture, good for man or motor."

### His Argument.

"Why have you turned footpad?"  
"Your honor, I used to be a panhandler."  
"I know that."  
"But nobody would listen to a hard story in these times."

## FRECKLES

Now is the Time to Get Rid of These Ugly Spots.  
There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as Othine—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots.  
Simply get an ounce of Othine—double strength—from your druggist, and apply a little of it night and morning and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than one ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion.  
Be sure to ask for the double strength Othine, as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.  
The written letter remains.

Cuticura Comforts Baby's Skin  
When red, rough and itching with hot baths of Cuticura Soap and touches of Cuticura Ointment. Also make use now and then of that exquisitely scented dusting powder, Cuticura Talcum, one of the indispensable Cuticura Toilet Trio.—Adv.

Free to Kick.  
Mrs. A.—Don't you ever visit in summer?  
Mrs. B.—Never. My husband always wants to go where he can pay board and act disagreeable when he feels like it.—Boston Transcript.

FARMERS ARE WORKING HARDER  
And using their feet more than ever before. For all these workers the frequent use of Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic, healing powder to be shaken into the shoes and sprinkled in the foot-bath, increases their efficiency and insures needed physical comfort. It takes the Friction from the Shoes, freshens the feet, and prevents tired, aching and blistered feet. Women everywhere are constant users of Allen's Foot-Ease. Don't get foot sore, get Allen's Foot-Ease. Sold by dealers everywhere.—Adv.

Only a very brave youth would attempt to steal a kiss from an unfaithful maid.

Itinerant Himself.  
The Maid—Mistress has a new husband.  
The Cook—Do you think he'll stay?

**WANTED**  
Lumber inspector, lumber pilers, cabinet makers, carpenters, frame makers, stickers, bench hands, shapers and men used to working in furniture factory and planing mill. Address, G. ELIAS & BRO. Inc., BUFFALO, N. Y.

HOUSEWIVES—Send for FREE SAMPLE of "Kwik-Kleen" Washing Tablets. Positively no injurious chemicals. No rubbing, bluing. Scott Bros., 515 Durango Drive, Toledo, O.

One Acre Texas Oil Lease, Pecos Dist., 25 Wells being drilled all sides. Assignment, oil map furnished. Send cash today. Worth \$ Ray, 416 Slaughter Bldg., Dallas, Texas.

**MEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE** are earning over \$10.00 every day selling new product, sweetens like sugar, relative cost only 30 cents a pound. Greatest money making repeat on earth. Experience unnecessary. Particulars free. Write A-1 PRODUCTS CO., Dept. K-W 2, 573 North Wells St., Chicago.

**FRECKLES** POSITIVELY REMOVED by Dr. Barry's Cream. Write for FREE SAMPLE. Dr. Barry, 297 1/2 E. 29th St., New York, N. Y.

# How Old Is John?



## What is the Truth about Old Uncle John Shell, of Greasy Creek, Kentucky? Is He "The Oldest Living Man" or Only a Youngster of 95 to 100 Summers?

### INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

THE age-old puzzle, "How old is Ann," is now put into the shade by the question lately agitated in the public press as to "How old is John?"  
Old "Uncle" Johnny Shell, the Kentucky mountaineer, who paid a visit to the Kentucky State Fair at Louisville last fall, has become famous over night as a result of this controversy.

Such papers as the "New York Herald," the "Literary Digest," and other periodicals of national circulation, have printed his picture, with comments on the question at issue.  
So much interest has been shown in the matter, that a special investigator was sent to Greasy Creek, Kentucky, by The Chattanooga Medicine Company (whose medicine—Thedford's Black-Draught Liver Medicine—had been used in the Shell family for many years) in order to get more information on the subject.

The investigator's report is given on another column of this page. The result of this investigation seems to show, on testimony of friends and neighbors, that John Shell is about 112 years old, that his health is good for a man of his age, and that his mind is clearer than that of the average centenarian.

A statement from his grandson (A. H. Shell) regarding the use of Thedford's Black-Draught, by John Shell himself, is given at the foot of this page.

### Facts vs. Fiction

JOHN SHELL is without doubt the most remarkable centenarian I have seen, and he is about the eighth I have met," says our investigator. "His memory is wonderful. The nearest that he and his family can come to his age is 112 years. His family has never claimed him to be over that age. The tax records that were burned in the court house at Harlan gave the date of his birth, as near as they could make it out, as September, 1808. He also counts from the age of his first wife, who died at the age of 107.

"John Shell cannot read or write, but for many years he was an expert maker of flint-lock rifles. John Shell rifles, marked with his private mark just behind the lock, are prized by collectors.

"In order to get a consensus of opinion as to his probable age, I thought it best to secure statements and affidavits from members of the family and neighbors, who have known him for many years. I therefore secured such statements from Judge A. B. Cornett, T. H. Howard, attorney-at-law, and W. B. Kelly, ex-United States marshal, and others. These are among the most substantial and reliable men of Kentucky."

#### Extracts from their statements are given below:

**OVER 100, SAYS W. B. KELLY.**  
I have known "Uncle Johnny" Shell for years. In fact, stayed with him a good deal, about 15 years ago. From the age Mr. Shell claimed to be, when I stayed with him, and the time that has elapsed since, I would judge him to be a good deal over 100 years old.  
W. B. KELLY,  
Ex-United States Marshal,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this April 24th, 1925.  
E. F. BOGGEN, Notary Public, Harlan Co., Ky.

**SHELL FAMILY RECORD SAYS 112.**  
My Aunt, Mrs. Martha Garrison, says that the date in her Bible, containing grandpa's age, was September 15, 1808. I have every reason to believe that she speaks the truth. My father, W. C. Shell, says this is the truth so far as he has ever known; also my uncle, A. B. Shell.  
A. H. SHELL,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of April, 1925.  
G. W. HOWARD, County Court Clerk.

**AT LEAST 110, SAYS T. S. WARD.**  
I will be 81 years old the 19th of July, 1925. I was born and raised in Harlan County, Kentucky. In 1862 I met Johnny Shell, who was called "Uncle Johnny" then. I was dodging the Confederate army and met "Uncle" who was 50 years old. He was too old for service in the Civil war. I am satisfied he is at least 110 years old, as he is a much older man than I am. Most every one in Harlan County knows me and will take my word for anything I say. I would not make a statement unless I believed it to be true.  
T. S. WARD,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 23rd day of April, 1925.  
M. G. SMITH, Notary Public, Harlan Co., Ky.

**ATTORNEY HOWARD SAYS OVER 100.**  
In different conversations with John Shell, he has often told about coming to Kentucky with his father in the summer of 1816, and that they camped where the town of Harlan, Ky., is now located, and that at that time he was 12 years old. In abstracting old land papers I found one where an entry was made by S. Shell (John's father) in the year 1816, in the neighborhood where he now lives. I have every reason to believe John Shell is a good deal over 100 years old.  
T. H. HOWARD, Attorney at Law,  
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 23rd day of April, 1925.  
M. G. SMITH, Notary Public, Harlan Co., Ky.

**OVER 100 AND AN HONEST MAN.**  
I have known Johnny Shell for about 50 years. I have sold him goods for 40 years. W. B. Kelly told of a man Smith. He and Shell grew up together, about the same age. If Smith had lived he would be a little over a hundred now. Richard Wilcox, who was raised a few miles from Shell, says Shell has turned 100. I talked to Shell last year. He knew me and talked to me as intelligently as I ever heard him. I have always found John Shell an honest man.  
S. C. HOWARD.

**JUDGE CORNETT SAYS ALL OF 108.**  
I have known "Uncle Johnny" Shell for 20 or more years. I have known of him as an old, old man. From all reports from the few who lived here when he said he came, and I believe from the age of 12, he is now at least 108 years old, and I believe older. I have talked with him in the last year and he seemed to be intelligent and just as rational as I ever saw him.  
(Judge) A. B. CORNETT, Harlan, Ky.

**"OLDER THAN MY MOTHER, 104."**  
I have known "Uncle Johnny" Shell all my life. I am almost 65. I would place his age at 104. Johnny Shell was older than my mother, and she would have been 104, had she lived till now.  
F. G. LEWIS.

In justice to John Shell and his family, it should be said that neither he nor they have ever claimed the extreme old age that was given in some of the reports published in the daily press. A story of the kind grows in the telling, and the desire for something startling to make good reading is no doubt the cause for the interesting fiction (founded on fact) that has been published about old "Uncle" Johnny Shell.  
Facts, however, in many cases, are just as interesting as fiction, and we have endeavored in this article to give the facts as we have been able to find them.  
THE CHATTANOOGA MEDICINE CO.



JOHN SHELL AND FAMILY  
John Shell, his second wife and five-year-old son. Also A. H. Shell, grandson of John Shell, his wife and their two daughters.



OLD "UNCLE" JOHN SHELL.  
A Remarkable Old Mountaineer.  
Now Living at Greasy Creek, Kentucky.  
Was thought by some to be 131 years old, but a full investigation does not disclose any reliable records going back so far.



The beneath picture shows Uncle John Shell's home at Greasy Creek, Kentucky, where he has lived for 7 years. His first wife died here, at the age of 107 years.

### Statement by John Shell's Grandson

A. H. Shell, aged 45, of Chappell, Kentucky, grandson of John Shell, whose picture is shown in the group at top of this page, authorized publication of the following statement:

"My grandfather has lived to a remarkable age. When a young man, he took very little medicine. Of late years he has needed medicine and my wife has looked after it for him. He needed something as a laxative and to keep his liver acting, so she sends to the store for

**Thedford's Black-Draught**  
and makes him a tea from that and it keeps him in splendid shape."