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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN

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ORGANIZED 1967

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H C H S

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'Tis education forms the common mind;
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.
Alexander Pope "Moral Essays"

H C H S

I expect to pass thru this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Stephen Grillet

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H C H S

May 21, 1978

As we expected, Carolyn Kellum and her Program Committee came through again with a delightful afternoon's entertainment May 21, at the Fairfield Friends Meeting, south of Plainfield. In this historic old church, nestled among the trees with the old cemetery across the road, a good crowd settled down to hear more about education in "the good old days". Margery Clay got us off to a good start leading us in a rousing rendition of "Good morning, dear teacher", then "America" and a number of old rounds - "Are You Sleeping, Brother John?". "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and "Alouette, gentille alouette". Ruth Pritchard gave a reading, the good old stand-by, "The Village Blacksmith" and Sherry Clark, a Danville spelling champion told us about the modern spelling contests and talked of her experiences in the County Spelling Contest.

The Misses Mabel and Naomi Joseph gave talks recalling early teaching experiences and customs. They have spent many years in front of classrooms instructing sometimes reluctant, sometimes eager young minds and they spoke with authority. It was an altogether pleasing afternoon culminated with sack lunches served by the ladies of Guilford, Liberty and Clay Townships.

H C H S

Our Next Meeting - August 13, 1978

After our last meeting, we are all looking forward to our next one, August 13, which will be held at the United Methodist Church in Pittsboro. The ladies of Union, Eel River, and Middle Townships will be our hostesses with Mrs. Hilden Ayers as chairman.

Mrs. Clark Kellum, program chairman, tells us the entertainment for the afternoon will be a "Show and Tell" program. Since education is the theme of the year, members are invited to bring anything pertaining to education. Members are urged to bring as many items as they wish, but the committee asks that each item be labeled with a description or explanation of the article along with the name of the owner. Each item will be numbered, and the committee will draw numbers to allow members to explain and talk about articles. A time limit must be set to allow as many members as possible to "show and tell". All articles will be placed on the display table for all of us to see and read about. "This is historical," Carolyn said, "but we must remember that yesterday is history." So, while we are intrigued with very, very old things, some of us "old folks" might be just as fascinated with very modern systems of education. So.... why don't we mix a little of the old with the new?

Those who have had perfect attendance for the year will be recognized and the nominating committee will give a report.

As usual, this bids fair to be a most interesting meeting, and again, we wish to congratulate Carolyn and her committee for planning such engrossing programs.

POLITICS - 1866 VARIETY

HENDRICKS COUNTY UNION May 24, 1866

Mr. Editor: you will please announce the name of Jacob Vandegrift, of Liberty Township as a candidate for Representative of Hendricks County, subject to the nomination of the Union County Convention.

HENDRICKS COUNTY UNION May 17, 1866

Send him Back: a number of the Republicans of Hendricks Co. prepare to send Jacob Vandegrift, Esq. back to this city. They have concluded that he would make a good legislator and propose to nominate him for the House of Representatives, at the Union Convention at Danville on the 26th. Judging from his efficiency when he was in the City Council, we have no doubt of his making an excellent member. He is a judicious and active worker, with little disposition to buncombe talk.

--Indianapolis Daily Gazette

HENDRICKS COUNTY UNION June 7, 1866

Clayton, Indiana
June 4th 1866

Mr. Editor: My name having been presented to the Union Convention of this county as a candidate to represent the county in the coming Legislature, and as I am a defeated candidate, I desire that my friends at least should be placed right on **the** record.

I understand that I have been charged with being a copperhead, or in other words, with being disloyal to my country; now, Mr. Editor, it seems to me that I am, and always have been a loyal man, both in thought and deed. I have voted with the Union party ever since its formation. I have spent my time and money for the benefit of my country. Perhaps I have spent more time and money than those persons who charge me with being disloyal. I would like some person to tell me what constitutes a loyal man, if I am not one.

I am informed that in Del River township a friend announced my name to the Convention, and as soon as he did so, a gentleman rose to his feet and stated to the convention that he was credibly informed that I was a copperhead, and if elected would vote for Jesse D. Bright for U. S. Senator. Now I have no acquaintance with the person making the above charge, but I am informed by those who know him best, that he is an honorable man, therefore I respectfully ask him to furnish me with the name of the person from whom he received his information, I will, however, take this opportunity of pronouncing that individual, be he who he may, an infamous liar, and I authorize my friends to denounce him as such, and he can hold me responsible for the words used.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, permit me to say that I am not an aspirant for office, my desire is, to live the remainder of my days in peace and quiet. I will take this opportunity of tendering my sincere thanks to those friends who, without any solicitation, on my part, endeavored to procure me the nomination.

Jacob Vandegrift

H C H S

One of the nicest things that have crossed our desk recently is the product of hours of labor by two young high school students of Plainfield. The following article from the Plainfield Messenger, May 29, 1978, will explain:

(see article)

VETERANS OF REVOLUTION 'FOUND' BY LOCAL STUDENTS

By Jean Dieckman
of The Messenger staff

Today, when area residents make their yearly pilgrimage to Hendricks County cemeteries where the remains of their beloved war dead repose, six additional soldiers will be honored.

These soldiers, all of the Revolutionary War era, were buried in undisclosed graves in Hendricks County, unknown to the public. That is, until two Plainfield High School students met the challenge offered by a civic teacher to find the graves of the 16 Revolutionary soldiers, photograph the headstones and dig out information about each one.

Freshmen Powell Bryant and Jeff Gossmann did just that and more. When the report was finished and presented, however, the original 16 were indeed listed but were accompanied by pictorial and written proof that six more soldiers were buried here.

Their teacher, Jerry Hankins, was elated with the report and suggested that it might be a welcome addition to Plainfield Public Library's Historical Room.

He was right in his guess, according to Betty Lane who heads that particular section, and now those with a taste for antiquity will find there a report which tells of 22 soldiers who fought for our country; who were Minutemen; who were involved in the battle of Cornwall; who perhaps indeed did know the likes of General George Washington or perhaps Paul Revere.

But how does one go about finding the ancient gravesites?

One way, the young men said, was to visit the Historical Room to obtain a list of the known soldiers; a list which was compiled some years ago by the local chapter of Daughters of American Revolution.

In that list, they said, the 16 soldiers along with information about their lives were noted as well as their date of death and burial place.

That presented a problem, however, since many of the cemeteries were little known.

Gossmann suggested they contact his aunt, Ruth Pritchard of Belleville, a well-known researcher in her own right. After comparing their list with one she had begun, it was found that 22 names altogether could be considered, and that burials had been in 16 separate Hendricks County cemeteries.

Armed with cemetery records and old maps, the pair accompanied by Gossmann's grandfather Lorin Rushton spent the month of April visiting cemeteries and photographing graves. Authenticity was proven by pensions claimed by the veterans.

The result, according to their teacher, was fantastic, "It was incredible the amount of work these kids put into it," said Hankins, "Just once in a while you find kids willing to put forth that extra effort."

The Messenger, Plainfield, Indiana
Monday, May 29, 1978

An interesting observation - the picture of each stone or marker includes the boys in the background; or if not the whole boys, their feet, I wondered why some pictures had four sneaker-clad feet showing and I was told that this was the proof that the boys doing the research were actually on the site when the picture was taken. That was part of their requirements. What a joy to know there are young people like these in our area! I sense the fine hand of Ruth Pritchard's influence here.

The list includes the following:

Richard Barnes - buried East Cemetery, Danville
John Bryd, - buried Clayton Cemetery
John Faucett - buried Shiloh Cemetery, N.E. of Avon
Thomas Fitzimmons - buried Regan Cemetery, S. of New Winchester
Edward Flathers - buried Gentry Cemetery, N.W. of Danville
William Florence - buried Spring Hill Cemetery, Cartersburg

Joel Garrison - buried Stilesville Cemetery
 Thomas Harding, - buried Lingeran Cemetery, S.W. of Troupsburg
 Daniel Wiggins - buried Henry Hunt Farm, N. of New Linchester
 Isreal Hunt - probably East Cemetery, Danville
 Matthew Jones - buried Center Valley
 Isaac Lawrence (Laurence) - buried Gossett Cemetery, N. of Plainfield
 Mathias Masten - buried Coatesville Cemetery
 John McCoy -
 Mordecai Miller - buried Walnut Cemetery, near Hendricks-Morgan
 County line
 William Ramsey - possible buried on farm near Morgan County line
 Obedieth Turpin - buried East Cemetery, Danville
 Lawrence (Laurence) Vanardsdall -
 John Wallace - buried Walnut Grove Cemetery
 John Ward - buried on west side of Road 267 several hundred feet west
 of Mobile gas station, which is just south of Interstate 74
 William Wiley - buried Gossett Cemetery, S. of Avon

N C H S

The following article by Wayne Guthrie former popular colum-
 nist for The Indianapolis News is interesting not only in its
 content but because it concerns a relative of a very dear member
 of our Society. Mr. Guthrie will be remembered by many of us for
 a splendid talk he gave at Pittsboro the first year our Society was
 in existence.

SOME STUDENT 'WOES OLD AS HICKORY STICK

By Wayne Guthrie

I have an idea that one phase of college life has not changed
 materially and will not be altered. I mean that students of any era
 must watch their pennies to make ends meet.

What fun it is to compare costs of other years with those of to-
 day in college life. I wonder whether students of the future will
 get the same kick from comparing their costs with those of our days?
 These thoughts were suggested by a letter in the possession of
 Frances Fisher, Pittsboro. It was written in February, 1863, to her
 grandmother, Myriam Wills Weaver, then a girl of only 15, in regard
 to her attending old Sainbridge Academy.

Apparently she had written to the school for information and the
 letter, written by J. E. Miller, was the reply. The principal of the
 institution at that time was not mentioned by name. However, she was
 an Eastern woman and a graduate of the Newbury Seminary, Vermont. Mrs.
 Fisher explained the contents of the letter thus:

"Tuition was \$5.50 a term for three studies, one in common
 English, grammar, geography and arithmetic, but for the higher
 studies, such as algebra, rhetoric or Latin, there was an added fee
 of 75¢.

"Rooms were available for \$2 a term and the cost of oil for
 lamps, which then were being used instead of candles, would be \$1 or
 \$2, with an additional cost of \$1 for wood for fuel.

"The writer of this letter suggested that provisions could be
 brought from home - flour, molasses, butter and even meat. A bed
 could be rented but if Grandmother wished she could bring her own
 bedding, a straw tick, to be filled after she arrived and sheets and
 blankets which she would need.

"In reference to textbooks, McGuffey's 'New Fifth Reader,'
 Pinei's 'Grammar' - I am not sure about the word 'Pinei' as the writ-
 ing is pretty indistinct in that place - Cornell's geography,

Ray's arithmetic and Ray and Davies' algebra. There were about 30 to 100 scholars at that time."

Mrs. Fisher said that after reading that letter she went straightway to the State Library but could find nothing for 1863. She did find, however, a complete catalogue for 1859 with the list of subjects taught, faculty and pupils.

"The saddest part," she continued "is that I never knew whether my grandmother ever did attend the academy. She was married very soon after the Civil War and somehow in all the stories and various accounts she told us through the years she never mentioned her education and we, being children, neglected to ask her."

H C H S

From the archives came a copy of The Danville Gazette published Sept. 18, 1930. The Gazette was celebrating its 50th anniversary and the following items appeared in that paper in September, 1880:

FIRST STREET LAMP

Drygoods Merchant Implanted It In
Danville 50 Years Ago.

John B. Stevens should be remembered as the first person that erected a street lamp in Danville. Cut this out and paste it in your scrap book. It will do to refer to when our city is illuminated by electric light. - The Gazette, Vol. I, No. 8 Nov. 2, 1880.

John B. Stevens was a progressive drygoods merchant when he started a new method of street lighting in Danville. Before and for some time after he implanted the first lamp post in the town, Danville citizens made their way over the graveled sidewalks by moonlight, and when the moon was not shining, these footpaths were illuminated by lanterns of tin or glass, some containing candles, the glass lanterns being still more modern, with a lamp burner, wick and kerosene, or coal oil. The lanterns were carried in the hand of a pedestrian.

As the years went by, street lamp posts became more numerous, being implanted at dark street corners in both business and residence sections. These lamps were of large square panes of glass, mounted in frames, and contained kerosene burners. They were set up by the Town Board and were attended by a street lighter who each day trimmed the wicks, cleared the glass of oily soot and replenished the oil. The lamps were lighted at dusk and often burned until next day noon, when the oil supply gave out.

But Mr. Stevens was entitled to another distinction. He discovered the five and ten-cent counter years before F.W. Woolworth founded the first five and ten cent store. In the Stevens store was a long table on which was arrayed a variety of merchandise-tack hammers, screw drivers, mouse traps, boxes of carpet tacks, cotton notions in variety, and many other articles that could with a profit be sold for a nickel or a dime. The table was a feature of the Stevens store, with a boy as salesman at \$1.50 a week.

Mr. Stevens, however, did not dream of the possibilities of his five and ten cent idea, and he did not expand it into a great chain of dime stores such as Woolworth, Kressge, and others evolved in later years.

COUNTY FAIR 50 YEARS AGO

News Notes of Exposition Held In
September, 1880.

(Explanatory Note. - The Hendricks County Agricultural Society held a fair for many years on a tract fronting on the Rockville road less than a mile west of Danville, and just east of the present Edwin Searce farm. It was a three days exposition of farm, garden and orchard products, cattle sheep and hogs; home-made quilts, chair tidies, culinary products and other feminine handicraft. Horse racing was another feature. It was one of the chief events of the year.)

The sad-eyed creatures of fortune were in force at the fair grounds last week. They were strangers, and they took our boys in.

There are many beautiful horses at our county fair, and what is more beautiful than a beautiful horse?- Hendricks County Union. A beautiful woman, you goose.

In speaking of the elegant turnouts at the fair last week, modesty forbids mention by the editor of The Gazette of the admiration elicited by the superb outfit in which he visited the grounds.

Charley McCurdy has not learned to cry out: "Here's your double-jointed peanuts, five cents a pocketful!" or "Come right along here and get your dinner-only a nickel!" He'll learn by the next fair, though.

Gambling in public, under the broad canopy of the heavens, in Hendricks county-free and unrestrained, and no limit to the game - was a sight last week that would make an ordinary Hendricks county grand jury weep for joy-if they only catch the culprits.

Col. Bill Hutchins is indispensable at our county fairs. He is the right man for the position of grand marshal-presents a magnificent picture on horse back.

The Rev. Talmage had many imitators at our county fair. We noticed several ministers looking on the chuck-a-luck, hironenous, and other games of chance, the better no doubt to enable them to moralize upon the probable influence of such nefarious proceedings upon the visitors.

The spelling match was won by Scip West.

Net Howell carried off the prize violin offered by Wade & Wade. It was a beauty.

The fair was not a financial success, but the chuck-a-luck and other games of chance were.

The Gazette force likes cake and a liberal slice of the premium cake sent to this office was just suited to their taste. It was baked by Mrs. Joel T. Tinder and was very toothsome.

The Pittsboro Band is gaining a splendid reputation. It was engaged at the fair and gave excellent satisfaction. The boys are negotiating to furnish music at the state fair.-The Gazette, Sept. 21, 1880.

AT CLOSE OF THE YEAR

News of Danville When The Gazette
Ended Its First Year in 1881.

Now for Yearly Meeting.

Wheat is worth \$1.34 in Danville.

The town board ought to induce the formation of a bucket brigade to fight fire. It will be a handy organization to have in case of need.

Tyra Montgomery called at The Gazette office last week looking for all the world like a papa. It's a girl and weighs - well, we wouldn't like to say just how much heavier than Tyra estimated it.

A new Republican paper is promised in the near future. Messrs. Parker & Bowen will be the editors and publishers. The Gazette thinks there is room for all, and will welcome the new paper to the field of rural journalism.

A flying trip to Plainfield last Wednesday resulted in substantial benefits to The Gazette. We called at the House of Refuge and formed the acquaintance of Prof. T.J. Charlton, the superintendent, whom we found to be a very pleasant gentleman and apparently the right man in the right place. It is our intention to give Plainfield and Guilford township an extended notice in the near future, and will now simply say that our visit was pleasant and profitable-two very important points in the career of a country editor.

FOX DRIVE AT STILESVILLE

The grand fox drive announced for last Saturday was a partial failure on account of bad weather. The captains performed their work gallantly but with all their skill and energy they could not make the men and boys "spread out." Three foxes were driven up but only one was captured. The whole performance is to be repeated in the near future when it is hoped that the boys may have more fun and catch more foxes. The Stilesville Band played the grand march. - Stilesville correspondence in Gazette 50 years ago.

WHITE LICK PRESBYTERIAN DEDICATION.

The White Lick Presbyterian church, a new brick edifice just completed at a cost of \$2,046 was dedicated last Sunday, Rev. J.D. Logan preaching the dedicatory discourse. This church is located 3½ miles south of Brownsburg, has had a steady growth under the pastorate of Rev. H. L. Dickerson, and begins another year with a new building paid for, an example other societies would do well to imitate. At the close of the services there were four accessions. - From The Gazette 50 years ago.

TAXAPYER SEES HIS CLOCK.

One of our out-township citizens came to Danville to pay, as he said, his proportion of the cost of the town clock. Never having realized any benefit from the investment, he waited until the noon hour, took in twelve strokes of the hammer and departed, apparently satisfied that it was a least a good thing for Danville.- The Gazette Nov. 2, 1880.

M C H S

Museum Findings

The museum recently received several old school books, one dated 1857, some from the 1860's, others from 1870's and many from the 1880's. Then there are things used in the home, for example: a wood table loom; a wood floor loom; and a bone tating shuttle.

Mr. Charles Brunson of Plainfield, is in the process of mounting small hand tools. For instance there is a corn sheller (doesn't need mounting). There are articles of harness; straw hooks; a pitch fork; a harpoon hay fork; a steel trap, and lots of others.

Another thing brought in was a contract made up in 1832 of a man with his doctor. If the doctor cured the man of his malady he would be paid a stated amount. If he did not, no money. Hmmm!

The Granny Beck's Corner Craft Shop has been reopened as of July 1, 1978. Kathi Kelley, Brownsburg, manages it. Several interesting articles have been received. Among things offered were decorated eggs made out of goose eggs, pendants made from pheasant eggs. Wouldn't the goose and pheasant hen say "My, my!" if they knew their eggs went far beyond the call of duty! The shop handles its items on a consignment basis, or items may be donated. The shop was started around Christmas time and operated during "Christmas at the Museum" but was closed afterward. It proved to be a popular venture and was reopened.

Clubs have included a tour of the museum for at least one meeting of the year. It is getting to be a popular place inasmuch as dates have to be arranged well ahead of time.

Plans are to have all the rooms in the building on display. It may take a while, but it will be done.

Jewell Bell

H C H S

A Love Story

Among a number of interesting items presented to the Museum by Mrs. Marcia Coopriider of Amo recently was an album. Later these were called autograph albums but in 1850 - 1853 they were much more than autograph albums. Every one who contributed to this particular album did so in poetry, and I think it can be safely assumed that most of the poems were originals. The first page read thus:

This album now abroad, I send
In hopes 'twill meet a gentle friend
Who, as a token of their love,
Will make its pages for to prove.

When it returns I want to feel
The evidence of Friendship's weal,
That warms the heart and cheers the mind
And we unite in spirits kind.
This was signed M.D. which stood for Mary Dixon, owner of the book.

The early pages were entitled "For Mary", "For a friend" or "For Mary Dixon" I will quote only one and you will soon see why I chose this particular one:

Entitled "For a Friend"
This album I have viewed it 'ore
And among its pages finde
There yet is room for writing more
If any one's a minde.

And I think they are those that would be
And feel that way inclined
If they could the album see
They'd show a willing minde.

Then send it fourth and let it go
And bid it all good speed
There may be something penned that would do
In future days to read.

Thy Friend

Caleb Hunt 1951

Now we will all agree that Caleb Hunt didn't write too romantically nor did he show signs of becoming a great poet, but he must have had other charms, for in the later pages, Gary Dixon is greeted as "Gary Hunt". So between the lines and the yellow pages of this old album we can read a love story, for Calh and Gary Hunt, grandparents of Mrs. Marcia Cooperider were married and it was they who gave an acre of ground where the first school building in Amo was built.

(Ed note: Isn't this apropos of our theme of Education?)

H C H S

World War I Records

Claude D. Raber (deceased) and Claire J. Sellars, veterans of World War I, were prevailed upon to write the account of Hendricks County's effort in World War I and to register names of Hendricks County veterans for the HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY, 1914-1976.

Evidently the only local records available were 1918 newspaper and discharge records filed in the office of the Hendricks County Recorder. They diligently searched these sources, eighteen months for history and for names of men inducted into military service from Hendricks County.

The Honorable William G. Pray, then Congressman from Indiana's Sixth District responded to their request for assistance, with many typed pages of pertinent material from military records stored in Washington, D. C.

After months of tedious and persistent labor, Claude D. Raber and Claire J. Sellars produced a commendable report of Hendricks County's military service and our 838 veterans, 29 of whom paid the supreme sacrifice.

This report was not printed in the HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY, 1914-1976. Consequently their account was recently published with permission of Claire J. Sellars, in The Hendricks County Courier, Tuesday, May 23, 1978. The sponsors for this publication were: Claire J. Sellars; Scott F. Mosier, Jr; Brownsburg Lincoln American Legion Post 331; Brownsburg America Legion Auxiliary; Brownsburg 40 & 8 Club; Hendricks County Post 118, Danville; Kurtz-Booker American Legion Post 217, North Salem; Mysewander - Dayliff American Legion Post 329, Plainfield; and Pittsboro American Legion Post 426.

Don Richer, editor of the Courier had 9000 copies of the May 23rd issue printed, providing an ample supply for veterans, schools libraries and other interested citizens. Mr. Richer also printed names accidentally omitted May 23rd in The Courier, the following week. These were; Herman J. Parsons, Lovell H. Parsons and Leon D. Pritchard.

Our sincere thanks go to all who helped make the publication of this chronicle and list of names possible. Especially are we grateful to Claude D. Raber (deceased) and Clair J. Sellars for their months of pains-taking research for the original manuscript and to Congressman William G. Pray for his invaluable assistance.

Ruth H. Pritchard

H C H S

Death has taken another member from our ranks with the passing of Mr. Alva Pace of North Salem. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Planche Wean recently assumed her duties as president of the Indiana Society of Public Accountants, a responsibility of great importance. She was also reelected secretary-treasurer of the Danville Chamber of Commerce Board. These new endeavors in addition to other obligations too numerous to mention make us wonder what next this remarkable woman will undertake. Congratulations to our treasurer!

The Danville United Methodist Church is sailing along with plans for the Sesquicentennial Celebration October 22, 25, and 29th. Grace Cox, member of the Executive Committee, chairman of the History Committee, and Maxine Cox, member of the History Committee, are Society members involved. Then your Editor and her sweetie pie are serving as General Chairmen. (Oh, well, I know we are chairpersons, but it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks!). Anyway, we hope you will join us at any or all of these occasions.

I have been handed a beautifully typed copy of the records of the Cartersburg Spring Mill Cemetery. The cemetery was read by Maxine Cox, Marian Covey and Grace Cox. The proofreading, which was completed June 20, was done by Maxine Cox, Ruth Pritchard and Grace Cox. I must also add that the impeccable typing was done by Grace.

We were shocked and saddened by the sudden serious illness of Habel Joseph who gave such a delightful part of our last program. At the time of going to press she is still in Hendricks County Hospital but, at last reports, improving and hoping to go home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as well as Randall and Virginia and Naomi and other members of her fine family.

H C H S

How About a Chuckle?

My Get Up and Go Has Got Up and Went

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get up and go has got up and went
But in spite of it all, I am able to grin
When I think of the places my get up has been.

Old age is golden, I've oft heard it said;
But sometimes I wonder when I get into bed
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup.
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself.
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
And I'm happy to say, as I close my door.
My friends are the same, or maybe some more.

When I was young, my slippers were red
I could kick up my heels right over my head.
When I grew older, my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.

Now that I'm old, my slippers are black.
I walk to the store, and puff my way back.
The reason I know that my youth is all spent
My get up and go has got up and went.

But I really don't mind as I think with a grin,
Of all the places my get up has been.
Since I have retired from life's competition,
I busy myself with complete repetition.

I get up each morning, dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

U C H S

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