The Humble Farmer And The Smart Pig

By Robert Skoglund

Three years ago I started recording stories that I'd heard from my venerable next-door neighbor, Gramp Wiley, Back then, a column might have started out something like this: "Gramp Wiley just told me about a man he knew 50 years ago who...,

Or I might have written, "Yesterday afternoon Gramp Wiley pounded his fist on the arm of his rocker and hollered, 'Back when I was a boy there was no pollution."

But too often after I'd rushed home to write Gramp's story I would see the same yarn in Yankee magazine or in a book by John Gould. That's why I no longer hurry to record his boyhood memories.

Now, I hold each story for 30 days. If I don't see it within a month, I figure it's true. After all, Gramp is almost 80 -something worth telling must have happened to him in that amount of time.

It was last month sometime that Gramp leaned back in his rocker and said, "Years ago I was walking by Perigrew Latroon's place when I noticed a pig stumping about on a wooden leg. Back in those days I was kind of curious so I ran over to the barn, where Perigrew was working, to find out about it.

"That's a nice looking pig out there,' I said by way of introducing him to the topic. 'That's a valuable pig' Perigrew says. 'Last year the barn caught fire, but that pig climbed out of his pen and made a racket over by the kitchen door until I came out and noticed the smoke. We got it out and saved the place. My son, Meriton, is chief of the volunteer fire department, you know. When he first brought Claudette home from France they moved in here. All the volunteer firemen come here for their meetings-Merton is chief, you know. Claudette still thinks that half the young men in this country fight fires. I guess she figures the other half set them.'

"Perigrew was a talker," Gramp said. "Get him started and he'd tell you about his relatives and his wife's relatives and all of their friends. But he had forgotten about the pig, and I wanted to know why it had a wooden leg, so I nudged him back in that direction by saying, That pig out there must go three - four hundred pounds.' 'Yes sir,' sasys Perigrew, 'That's a

valuable pig. When I got caught in a piece of machinery last summer that pig ran over to the kitchen door and carried on until Meriton came out and unhooked me. For a week or so Isobel Dyer was in here every afternoon to

see how I was getting along. She'd stay until we ate and of course we had to feed her too. One night when we'd finished eating I let the dog lick the plates and then I just put them up in the cupboard. She never came

" 'One of her boys was a policeman. He got so good at detecting thieves that he became one. The other boy was a sign painter - made "Next Window Please" signs for banks - sold millions of them through the mail and got rich. He came by here once with an awful headache - said his brain felt like it was about ready to explod. I told him he didn't have to worry about injuring too many people."

"But did Perigrew ever tell you why the pig had a wooden leg?" I asked.

Gramp Wiley said, "Every time I mentioned the pig he'd ramble off on something else, so I finally said, 'Perigrew, why does that pig have a wooden leg?" And he said, 'That's a valuable pig, sir; and you can't expect I'm going to eat a valuable pig like that all at



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Flint Hill Community News

By Ruby C. Ledbetter

Due to the winter snow storm and power outages in the area, there were no services at Flint Hill Church Service.

Those home from the Cleveland Memorial Hospital are Austin Anthony, Mrs. Betty Long and Mrs. Linda Ledford. Sherman Blanton is still a patient

Rev. Ed Sessom returned home Thursday from a 11 day mission tour in the Island of Jamaica.

Mr. and Mrs. Olen Ledbetter and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dover and family visited Mrs. Christie Blanton and Mandy in Spartanburg, S.C. They went especially

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for the second birthday of Mandy Blanton. A party was enjoyed

Mr. and Mr Roger Ledbetter and Chad visited Mr. and Mrs. Ray McCraw of the Prospect Community Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Crotts and Leslie, and Mrs. Paul Crotts of near Newton brought Mrs. D.H.H Connor for a visit to the Durham Ledbetter's. Mrs. Conner remained for an extended

A Fifth Sunday Night Singing will be at 7 p.m. Jan. 30th.

On Sunday morning, Jan. 30th we will have Baptist Men's day. Jimmy HInes will be the

487-4781 day or night.

MY ANSWER

BY DR. BILLY GRAHAM



Dear Dr. Graham: I have been married for several years, and I am beginning to worry about our marriage. At first we were deeply in love, but now those feelings of love seem to be fading, how can we get them back?--S.M.T.

Dear S.M.T.: I have observed that there are often related to each other very closely, but there is a difference. Let me explain.

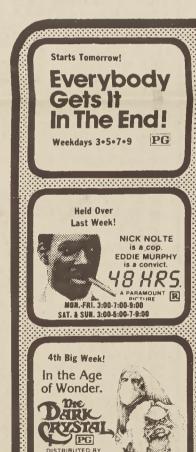
Romantic love is often very emotional. Two people are attracted to each other, and strong feelings develop between them. This is often what people mean when they say they are in love-they have strong romantic feelings toward another person. There is nothing wrong with this, of course-there is definitely an emotional side to true love.

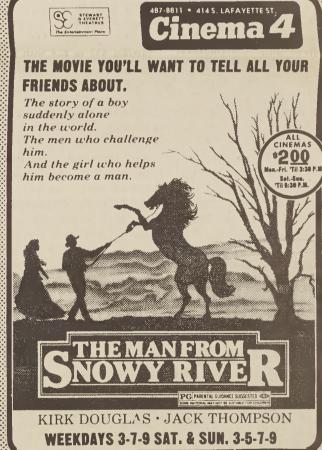
But the problem with romantic love is that it gradually fades as time goes on. The deep emotional feelings are no longer as strong as they once were and may even vanish altogether. Unfortunately, when this happens a couple may decide that there is no longer any hope for love in their relationship and decide to end the marriage.

I hope, however, that this will not be the case with you-and it need not be if you will work at establishing your relationship on true love. True love includes romantic love, but it is more than that. True love involves a commitment to each other, and a settled determination to be kind and considerate to the other person instead of selfish.

Love, you see, is more than a feeling-it also is an action. Look at the characteristics of true love that the Bible lists: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (I Corinthians 13:4-7).

This is the kind of love God has for us, and my prayer is that you and your wife will discover his love by giving.







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