

MUSING IX
DECEMBER 2008

AN OFTEN USED PHRASE. "DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS." ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST WRITERS WAS WILL ROGERS. WILL SAID "I ONLY KNOW WHAT I READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS." CONFUSING?

SOMETHING OF NO IMPORTANTANCE. HOW DID NICKNAMES OF QUAKERS, HOOSIERS AND SOONERS ORIGINATE?

THE LATE IRISH ENTERTAINER TOMMY MAKEM WOULD OFTEN TELL THIS STORY ABOUT ST. PAUL. TOMMY WONDERED IF THE CORINTHIANS EVER ANSWERED ANY OF THE LETTERS ST. PAUL SENT TO THEM.

HOW COME KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS IS GREEN?

MY SON JOE WAS STUCK AT THE HINSDALE OASIS ON I-294 FOR 45 MINUTES. I-294 WAS SHUTDOWN BECAUSE THE OBAMA MOTORCADE WAS COMING FROM O'HARE FIELD. IS THAT NECESSARY? ORDINARY PEOPLE HAVE LIVES TO LIVE ALSO.

IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR THAT YOU CAN USUALLY WIN MORE MONEY ON WHEEL OF FORTUNE THAT YOU CAN ON JEOPARDY.

I DROVE THROUGH THE SIDE STREETS OF EVERGREEN PARK TO GET THE MORNING NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT MY SEAT BELT HOOKED. I FELT VERY GOOD ABOUT IT. I HAVEN'T FELT THAT GOOD SINCE I PUNCHED THE PITTSBURGH PIRATE MASCOT IN THE HEAD IN BRADENTON, FLORIDA. THERE IS A STORY BEHIND THAT.

ANDRE RIEU IS COMING TO THE ALL-STATE ARENA ON THURSDAY MAY 21, 2009.

IF CHICAGO SHOULD GET THE OLYMPIC BID WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN THE INSURANCE BUSINESS?

IT IS VERY CONFUSING AND MYSTIFYING TO SEE THE N.Y.S.E. FALL OVER 500 POINTS IN ONE DAY AND THEN SEE ABOUT 20 PEOPLE CLAPPING AND SMILING AT THE CLOSING BELL.

MY BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER, I WAS 10 YEARS OLD AND IN THE 5TH GRADE WHEN I RECEIVED MY 1ST PAIR OF LONG PANTS. NO MORE KNICKERS.

WHEN DID THE HOLY GHOST CHANGE HIS NAME TO THE HOLY SPIRIT?

CAMARADERIE WERE GREAT. THE HIGHLIGHT FOR ME WAS THE NICE THICK SEAT CUSHION FOR THE GAME THAT EACH OF US RECEIVED.

I LIVED IN THE LAP OF LUXURY ON NOVEMBER 8TH. MY SON JIM AND I WERE GUESTS OF PEPSI-COLA IN THE STADIUM CLUB SUITE FOR THE OHIO STATE- NORTHWESTERN GAME. IT'S BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR THE WILDCATS AND COACH PAT FITZGERALD EVEN IF HE DID GET A BUCKET OF GATORADE SHOWER IN 35 DEGREE WEATHER AT THE END OF THE ILLINOIS GAME. QUOTING FITZ, "GO CATS." I ENJOYED THE SEASON.

JIM AND I AND JACK FARNAN WERE AT THE LEO HIGH SCHOOL – MENDOTA GAME IN MENDOTA, ILLINOIS. IT WAS 100 MILES FROM HOME AND VERY RURAL. IT IS VERY CLOSE TO MY FAMILY'S ORIGIN IN AMERICA, LASALLE AND MINOONK, ILLINOIS. TIME SEEMS TO STAND STILL IN LASALLE COUNTY. WE DIDN'T STAY FOR THE TRACTOR PULL AFTER THE GAME.

REMEMBER HOW THE NUNS WOULD SCOLD ANYONE WHO WROTE THE WORD "X-MAS" AND RIGHTLY SO. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF PUTTING CHRIST BACK IN CHRISTMAS. IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO SPELL.

WITH THAT SAID PLEASE ACCEPT THESE MUSINGS AS YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETING CARD.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER AND DONNA. HOPEFULLY, IN OUR LIFETIME, WE WILL FINALLY HAVE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

GOD BLESS,

GENE EARNER
1-708-636-8827

NO IRISH SONG THIS TIME. JUST A QUOTE.

"WERE WE TO KNOW THE MERIT AND VALUE OF ONLY GOING FROM ONE STREET TO ANOTHER TO SERVE A NEIGHBOR FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WE SHOULD PRIZE IT MORE THAN GOLD OR SILVER."

BLESSED BROTHER EDMUND IGNATIUS RICE, FOUNDER OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS OF IRELAND.