

*Merry Epiphany Christmas & Happy New Year
December 2018, From the Kimbles*

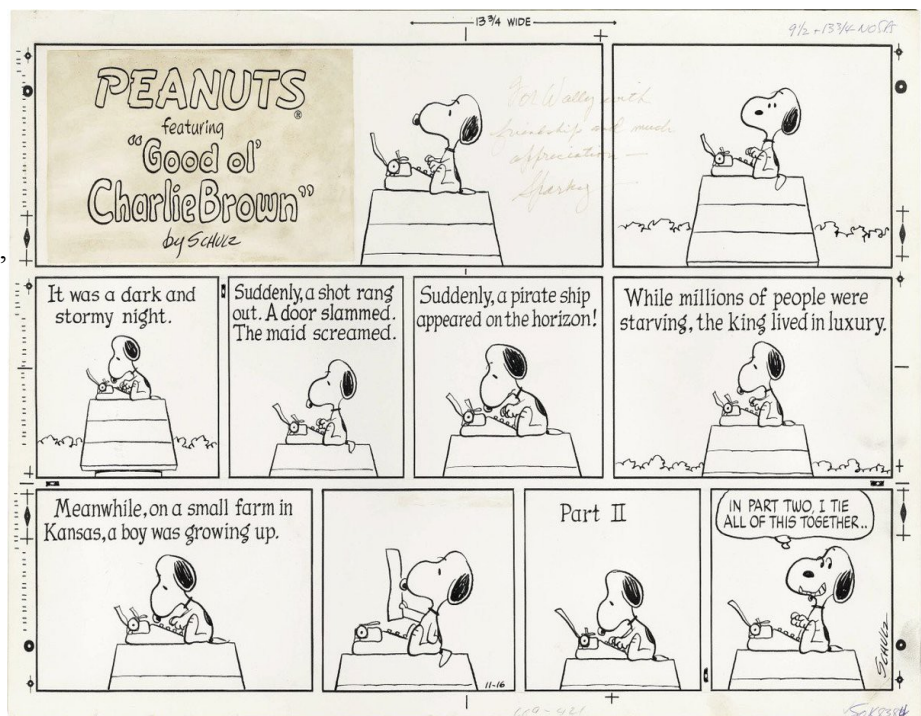
Part I. A Christmas tome, its time has come. To bring good cheer, or beastly crumb, to extol life's virtues while drinking egg nog, with some ho ho ho and pa "rum" pum pum pum.

2000 years ago, between 25 and 40 lifetimes laid end to end, a male child was born in an animal feeding trough next to what today might be a Holiday Inn Express or a Motel 6. He grew up to be a teacher and Rabbi, and his parents helped him. He came to promote an odd philosophy for the time: helping others regardless of class or wealth. Loving each other, being kind, seeking and offering forgiveness, treating each person with love and respect... healing the wretched, these were at the core of his teaching. Plus, he made the ten commandments instrumental in promoting that kindness. "Thou shalt not:" lie, steal, kill, commit adultery, use the Lord's name in vane, worship effigies or objects, covet (i.e. be greedy and envious). And there were things to do in those ancient commandments, like honor your parents, remember the Sabbath. and hold the God of Israel above all others. He pointed out that even if you did all these things, peace would not always follow you, in fact, quite the opposite would often occur. And now we know! Dictators hate not being worshiped. And we have documentation that class hatreds, greed and envy, are major driving forces in war, politics and in revolutions, but those venues for hate oft cease to exist, first by losing their polish and steam when people all have respect and love for each other and are trying to help each other out; second, because then evil is more easily seen, identified, and rooted out; but third, also because of a well known theory: you just can't be both places at once.

Hence I learned a wee bit more about apple trees this year. We ate our first apple from a grafted tree and half a dozen grafts actually took (~30%, getting better). Plus we found that germinating seed in paper towels in a fridge is flawed, it spreads mold. Turns out, the best way to avoid molds like black spot in the seedlings is to germinate them in gallon pots in a screen protected frame, planting the chilled seed in late January or early February (~2.5 months of chill @39F). Doing that, you can get clean, 1.5 foot trees if transferred right away to 3 gallon pots. That way, they grow big enough in one year to survive the following winter. That big tap root makes one gallon pots and peat pots too small to do the job without an extra transplant (bummer, lost most of my seedlings. Time and tide wait not for old guys & apple trees.)

We both learned a lot about the pancreas and heart, too. We both have type 2 diabetes but this

Spring my pancreas just threw in the towel and stopped working, my food would not digest (Pure evil). Had a pain there last winter, doctor ordered exploratory surgery (plan A), but surgeon said let's wait (plan B), so what do I know, I went with B, turns out both doctors were right. Pain went away, pain came back but suddenly the enzyme duct that digests my food, was blocked by a cyst and the whole thing backed up and digested itself, swell. No more digestion, increasing diabetes, what a mess. But for a price, they do have enzymes and insulin to compensate. So now I take a pill and shots for that and lucky me,



we're now back to plan A. I'm thinking, we're pre-disastered, right. What could possibly go wrong. This will certainly be the first year among many where Marge won't end up in a nursing home, but, "It was a dark and stormy night." (Thanks Charles Shultz.)

Marge had a problem. One of her prescribed drugs caused her blood vessels to dilate and she began to pick up water. She was in the throes of congestive heart failure. Suddenly she couldn't walk, couldn't get in bed, or in the car, etc. (etc. - that's a writer's gadget for avoiding trouble, ya know.). Time passed and things got worse. Went to the hospital she lost 60 pounds of water in four days, another 10 in a nursing home, another 10 back home. Guess what boys and girls, drugs can be very, very bad for you!! Between the two of us we lost over 130 lbs. Sadly we both feel somewhat worse for wear... but, "We'll fix it all in post." i.e."In part two, we tie all this together."

Part II

It's all about friends and family. Friends helped when one of us or the other needed to be out of the house, with food, and help for Marge, and with a dozen things. Sarah, our granddaughter went to Girl Scout camp just a few miles from here, giving our daughter a couple of excuses to visit. Sarah also won the GS silver award by drawing together a lot of wonderful Girl Scout tunes.

Two old friends from college, Bruce and Ilse Bye had their 50th anniversary in Indianapolis. I really enjoyed riding with Barry Steinman, who drove, and his wife Judy. Ilse was in the same co-op at Purdue as my sister back in the 60's and Barry, Bruce, and I were Ag students at IPFW, Indiana Purdue University Fort Wayne, long before it was more than just one building or became PFW, Purdue Fort Wayne.

After all the health troubles, Thanksgiving was expected to be a little off, but it turned out that way only because we ordered the "big box" meal from Krogers to save effort! Ha! cooked but near freezing, the bird arrived, 3 hours to warm; uncooked & unsnapped green beans; buns in a box; yams in a can; dressing was an actual loaf of bread and a bag of 'gredients. But there was a very nice blueberry pie (because they were out of pumpkin?! Well, you get the idea, twice the work and half the fun. Joe Halaburda stayed in FW to help his son fix his car and stay on the road, so we missed him sorely, but Marge's sister, Nancy Shirley Halaburda and her daughter Meghan were here and the annual Komets hockey game was a win, Yea!! The Warfs were here and Granddaughter Sarah and daughter Jennifer went to the game.



John, Jamie, Michelle, and Alex Kimble

Christmas was pretty calm, few decorations or fancy lights, but I have never seen so many Christmas movies in my whole life.

The kids stayed home, John in Minneapolis, and Jennifer in Carmel, IN. But here is a picture of granddaughter Sarah Warf (JOY in the front row) at the Carmel Methodist Church tree lot. If you needed a tree, it was a good place to go.

Well that's about it. Lots of wildlife here, the bob of an occasional deer tail, rabbits, raccoon, woodpeckers, red birds, and the occasional whistling of baby coyotes in the night tons of stuff.



Ah, and I finally got the tree up, sort of, a few days late and I couldn't find the tree stand anywhere. But it was a great opportunity to rummage through the old tree decorations and rearrange the hall closet. Teghtmeyer's Hardware was offering free trees on Christmas Eve, just too good a deal to pass up. And if you ever get a chance to visit Columbia City, stop by the house, and be sure to visit Teghtmeyers, they always seem to have some free end of season items for the local Scot progeny like myself. I still have a half dozen pepper plants in the foyer window from about 5 years ago. And we love you guys so much!! So hey, free pepper plants to the first 5 visitors. :)

Merry Christmas, a joyful Epiphany, a Happy New Year, and may health, happiness and prosperity follow you throughout the new year.

& ...to all a Good Night

Sincerely,
Ed and Marge Kimble

PS - Always feel free to send a note, but if someone can tell me how all my tabs suddenly became 4" long in Open Office on that last edit, write to:
kimble@gunstar1.com
www.gunstar1.com/Christmas/C18.pdf

