

## [If I Could Live My Life Over Again]

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IF I COULD LIVE MY LIFE OVER AGIN.

"Settin' here sa such, an' readin' an' restin', I got lots a time ta think now. Usta be when I'd come home from the shop at night, I'd be so tired that all I'd want ta do wuz sleep. But now I got lots a time ta jest think. [Miss?]

"An' I often wish, like, I guess most men wish sometime or other, that I could live my life all over agin. Everybody thinks of how they like ta do somethin' or other diffrent. Ya know what I'd do?

"I'd get myself an education. Ya kin go further in this world if ya got an education an' if ya got it all set in your mind jest what ya want ta do, and the determination ta stick right ta that aim. Ya can't go this way an' then that way an' sorta wish you'll got what ya want. Ya gotta set your mind ta it and stick right on the one path 'till ya get it.

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“An' that's more true today than it usta be too. Fur jobs is hard ta get. But if I wuz a young man, I'd first decide that I wanted ta do with my life, an' then I'd go out and get the education ta help me get it.

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### THEIR CHILDREN

“All my children's married but one an' she's got a good job at the shoe machinery. Twenty-two dollars a week she earns, an' she don't save a cent. She gives us seven dollars a week board an' the rest she spends.

“Most a her money she spends on clothes. Right up to the latest she is. My wife said to me one day, 'did ya ever look in her closet?'

“‘Yes' I said, ‘and aint it a sin?’ You shoulda, seen them dresses an' all the latest style. If somethin' gets a little bit out, she gives it to her sister that's married.

“She oughta be married an' I wished she wuz. She went with a fella fur a good many years an' he liked her too, but he wuz a Protestant. He was a fine fella though a mighty fine fella and I wouldn't put up no objection to her marryin' him. But she's a girl that mighty touchy about her religion and one day he said somethin' she din't like, an' I guess that ended it.

“I always think though that a fella ain't got no right ta take up a girls best years if he don't plan ta marry her, an' a girl's a fool ta let him. I was talkin' ta a young lady once an' she said that if a fella cun't make up his mind in a year er two she'd do the askin' an' 3 find out where she stood. I think that's right too.

“An' I don't see why two young folks of diffrunt religions can't get along if they wuz ta look at it right. But if they fight about it before they got married, they ought not ta take the step. ‘Cause they'll sure fight about it afterwards too if they do before.

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“But you take my other daughter now. She's married to a Protestant an a mighty decent chap too. But he's a liberal minded fella. He'd go ta church with her any time she'd want him too. An' they get along fine. They got a little girl nineteen months now, and ain't she the cutest thing? We wuz up there last Sunday. An' ta see that little thing play with a little dog they got fur her! Once she lay right down on the floor beside the dog and put her head down on him. An' sometimes she pulls his legs and his tail. He never even snaps at her. It's funny how children get along with dogs sa well.

“They live up near Newburyport, arunnin' one of them lunch cars. They make good at it too. Leastways they make a good livin'.

“We got two good sons too. The one is the baby a the family, him that got the job at the shoe machinery when they found out I can't go back no more. He had the best education of the bunch.

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“Well, about a year ago he got married an' his mother din't like it. She thought he ought ta stay home a while an' try ta pay back some a the money we put out fur his education. Besides he din't have a job fur five years, before he got in at the shoe machinery.

“But I said, 'I don't blame him. He's got a nice girl.' Besides that, the girl's mother put out fifteen hundred dollars ta get them started on payin' fur a brand new house. A nice cottage it is too. An' besides all the relatives give 'em the nicest kind a furniture. I told my wife that I can't blame them atall. If I'da good chance like that I wun't pass it up either an' I don't blame him none either.

“Anyway, we'll get along. We don't havta have any a the money that boy'll bring in. We don't need much an' we can live on what we got. An' I'm glad he's married. The time is comin' before long when me and his mother will pass on into the beyond, and then we'll be glad to know he's got a good companion fur life. And I glad we give him that education.

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“My other son's been married a long while. He's got growed up children; one of them works in the five and ten cents store and she's thinking about entering upon what they call that blessed state a matrimoney too. Kinda a shame, I think, in a way, 'cause she's so young, only 5 just twenty. I think she should have a longer time ta have a good time in. Young folks needa a fling before they settle down, and then they don't feel so much like they missed something.

“But she's a good sensible girl she is. Some one asked her what she'd do if her boy friend changed his mind. ‘Well,’ she said, ‘He won't. For I got his money. He gives it to me every week to put away for us both’. And she mighty pretty too. But I hate to see her get married so young.

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### HIS CHARITY

“I do a lotta readin'. Often I set out here on the porch after breakfast and I'm back a newspaper with my cigar till first thing ya know I drop the paper, and then I wake up ta find I'd took a nap. Then I'm all set ta read some more.

“I change off ta diffrunt things. Besides the paper I get a lotta poultry magazines an' magazines from homes where they raise poor boys. There're intristin' ya know, ta read about what they do fur young fella's that ain't got no home. An' sometimes they show you their pictures in the magazines.

“The way I get them is because once in a while when I get a few extra dollars I send one to them homes. Fur I believe in helpin' poor boys. An' then they send me the magazines. And ya know the other day I sure got a surprises. I wuz lookin' through one a the magazines an' I saw a picture of a half grown boy an' the name beneath it wuz exactly the same as the name a my oldest boy. I saved it an' when he come, I said ta him, 'da ya see that?' Well, sir, he took it home ta show ta his children an' wife.

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When Father's Day come, each a my children give me somethin'. Soma a 'em give me money an' I sent some a that to them homes. It's a good work ta help boys get a start in life an' I believe in helpin' them that are doin' it all I kin.

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### SMOKING

"I bin asmokin' all my life, an' I think there's nothin' like a good cigar ta drive your troubles away. I usta smoke a pipe but that got too strong fur me an' I took up cigars. An' I'm never without 'em.

"I don't even havta buy 'em. Every time my children come ta see me, they bring me a box a cigars. They give me some on Father's Day, them that didn't give me that money I wuz tellin' ya about. An' they give em to me fur my birthday an' on Christmas. Why mosta the time I got more'n I use an' I kin give some away. I like ta give things away when I kin. It gives ya a good feelin' ta know you're doin' some small thing fur somebody else.

"An' when I get done with my magazines I always try ta find some one else that 'ould like ta read 'em. I get some religious ones an' I give them ta a little girl — she's about sixteen or seventeen, that religiously inclined. And the others I give ta folks that's intristed in 'em.

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### "A RATTLING GOOD TIME

"I often set here an' think how little stock we take in the good things that's so near ta us. Take the ocean now. I don't know when I bin down there.

"But take the people that's come almost clear across the country ta get ta that convention in Boston. (Kiwanis convention) Ya kin bet they wun't go home without seein' the ocean. I seen by the paper this mornin' how they come down ta Swampscott an' jest set there on

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the rocks ta see the water. Some a 'em had their pictures took there. Ta them, that is a rattlin' (rattling) good time an' we wun't think nothin' a it atall.

“Too easy ta got there, I guess. Nothin' that's easy is ever thought much of, I guess. Ya havta have somethin' almost outa your reach, I guess, before ya think it's worth while.

“Why my wife said the other day, ‘Pat, I'll bet it's ten years since we went fur a hulleday ta the beach. But ya see when I wuz workin' I'd go to work at eight a'clockan' havta leave here aroun' seven thirty, an' I wun't get home till after five, an' then there wuz the garden ta take care of. I'd be tired when night come an' wanta go ta bed. An' since I bin outa the shop, I bin sick er my wife's bin sick. But we'll havta go down 10 there sometime soon. A pretty sight, the ocean.

“But my wife an' I are happy just ta set here on the porch an' read an' have our children an' grandchildren come ta see us. We're homebodies, sorta contented like, an' happy.