

# SKITS

# N' STUFF

A HANDY COLLECTION OF SKITS, GAGS, & RUN-ONS  
FOR CAMPFIRES & FUN GATHERINGS

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## READ THIS FIRST

We won't belabor the point, but there are some obvious downfalls that occur when groups put on a skit. Use this checklist to make sure yours is successful.

(1) CHOOSE A GOOD ONE. Read several and consider the talents and the personalities of the people in your group. Naturally funny people can do almost anything. For others, you may need to choose something with built-in punchlines or humor.

(2) MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS. Read it aloud thoroughly. Explain the humor, if you must. But be sure everyone knows what they're to do and why. (We once saw the 49-49-49 Manhole Jumper gag fall flat three times because the jumper didn't fully understand the skit).

(3) BE SOLD ON THE SKIT. Any professional performer will tell you, if you aren't sold on the part, it will never fly. If you aren't convinced that it is funny, you're already doomed to flop.

(4) SELL IT TO THE AUDIENCE. Speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear. Set the stage, explain all the details. Assume the audience has never seen your skit before. They haven't read these cards and they don't know what's happening unless you tell them.

(5) REHEARSE YOUR PARTS. Run it through several times, like the pros do. A missed line, and inaudible sentence, a forgotten cue can ruin your skit. You don't want to lay an egg, and more important, you don't want it all over your faces, either.

(6) PLAY IT TO THE HILT. Do more than just say the words. Put some life and action into your characters. Often, its the exaggeration that puts real life in an old joke or a tired skit.

(7) STAND UP, DO IT, SIT DOWN. We're talking skits here, not a three-act play. Keep it short, deliver your punchlines and then sit down. The audience will appreciate it.

## THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD

Guy in a long raincoat & hat (Karl Mauldin imitation)  
"Do you know me? I'm a star of television and the movies. But folks rarely recognize me without my badge (shows a G-Man badge pinned under lapel.) So I carry the American Express Card. Don't leave home without it...Watch you'll see what I mean."

Behind him two guys enter from the left, and bump into a guy headed towards them. They pass and exit, but the lone guy feels for his wallet. It's gone. "Oh No! My money's gone and I'm stranded here in a foreign country, I don't know anyone. Why didn't I get American Express?"

"Yes," says Mauldin, "It can happen to anyone. Let's see that same scene over in slow motion." The three do it again, slowly. And this time when they bump, they actually hold the guy upside down by his ankles and shake his cash out on to the ground. One gathers the coins and the other crook dusts the victim off. Then they exit as before.

Mauldin: "Yes Sir, The American Express Card. Don't leave home without it."

## THE ARMY SKIT

Draftees under their blankets, are roughly awakened by the tough Sergeant on their first night at Boot Camp. "Rise'n'Shine you new recruits! You're in the Army now. Get out of them racks, It's 4:30 AM."

Everyone jumps up, except one in the rear. "4:30? Man you better get to bed, we've got a rough day coming up tomorrow." The sgt. explodes and chases him out into the running formation where he joins the other recruits.

"Squad, Halt!" the Sgt. shouts. "Aw right, People. You have been in this man's army for six weeks and you still make me sick. There'll be no liberty this weekend for anyone." ... From the back of the column, "Give me Liberty, or Give me death!" ... "Who said that?" shouts the Sgt. "Patrick Henry," comes the reply.

Everyone has now fallen in the Mess line where a big guy in a dirty T-shirt is slopping the food out of a big pot. .. "Oh, not that slop again," one guy says. The cook replies, "Look here, wise guy, I was cooking this chow long before you was even born." .. "Yeah, but why serve it now." And with that, the cook chases everyone out of sight.

## THE BARBER SHOP

The barber, decked out in a white t-shirt, flaps his towel as if readying for a customer. "You're next," he says to the first fellow waiting. "Oh, I'm not here for a haircut, Sir. I'm just hiding from my Dad and he'll never think of looking here."

As the next fellow sits down in the chair the announcer speaks up, "There's nothing quite so scary as a trip to the Barber Shop when the guy with the razor is still an apprentice."

And there stands the barber, razor in one hand and a towel draped over the other arm. The customer sits nervously, his face now covered with lather and a sheet around his neck. The barber nicks him badly once, then twice. "Do you want someone else to finish?" "No" says the victim, a bit steamed. "But you could give me a razor too, so I could defend myself!" Jumps up and chases the barber out of sight.

## THE BAR ROOM

Bartender is cleaning glasses, as first man enters. "Dirty Dan's a-coming. Give me a quick one." Second guy enters, then a third and fourth, all spouting the same line. Everybody shivers and shakes when Dirty Dan's name is mentioned.

Finally Dirty Dan arrives and everyone at the bar starts to shudder. He stalks on in, and shouts "All you dirty bums get out of here!" as he pulls his trusty six guns and shoots in the air. Everyone scatters, slapstick style -- two run into each other, a third bounces off the wall.

Dirty Dan then turns to one lone old drunk sitting in the corner, calmly smoking his pipe. "Well!" shouts Dan. The old man looks up and smiles, "Sure was a lot of 'em, wasn't there."

## BEAR OVER THERE

Volunteers from the audience join your two. They are told to do exactly as you do and speak exactly as you speak. Now line them up side-by-side, fairly close together.

First guy in line cups his hand to his mouth and says, "Hey Paw!" In turn, each person in line repeats this. "Yeah Son!" comes the answer back down the line. Leader kneels and so does everyone else. "I saw a bear." "Where?" comes back the question. "Why over there!" As he raises his hand to point, he swings it toward the line, so as to knock them (already off-balance on one knee) over like a line of dominos.

## BRAGGING FISHERMEN

A tableau of six guys sitting on stools by the lake with fishing poles hanging in the water. Heads droop until time for them to speak their gags.

"Not bad for a day," says the first. "Not bad, says the second. "When we lived in Texas we caught them as big as eight inches."

"Eight inches? Why I've caught'em over 20 inches long right here in this very pond."

"Who's talking long? In Texas, we measure'em between the eyes."

"Any luck, Zeb?" "Yup, I caught me a 65-pound cat, but decided not to keep him. How about you."

"Nope. But I did fish out a lantern I lost five year ago. And it was still a-burning."

"Aw right. Maybe my fish weren't no 65 pounder. I'll knock off 30 pounds, if you'll blow out that light in the lantern."

"No, seriously how is the fishing in Texas?"

"Not too good. Fished all day and only caught one fish and he was too small to keep. Luckily for me, two men come along in a truck and helped me throw him back."

## THE CAMP STAFF

Nothing works better than tailoring a skit to re-tell or embellish happenings at Camp...Failing that, you can always poke fun with a final salute to the Camp Staff.

Here are a few examples:

And here's to name, that guy who runs the dinning hall. The food here at Camp was extraordinary this week. The best part, I guess, was that we didn't have to eat that stuff...I really hate it when the spaghetti looks back at you and starts to crawl off the plate."

How about name, that guy who runs the rifle range. He really makes you wonder what he does the other nine months of the year. Have you noticed that every time he fires a rifle, he stops, takes his handkerchief out of his pocket and then wipes the fingerprints off his gun?"

And name, that guy who counseled Fishing merit badge. He said he was going to teach us how to catch fish with flies...Well did he ever? We fished with 'em, ate with 'em, slept with 'em, boated with 'em, camped with 'em, drank with 'em, and swam with 'em, all week long. And we still didn't catch no fish."

## THE CAMP STAFF CONT'D

And can you believe name, that guy who counsels Nature and Bird Study. He tried to tell us Eagles have such keen eyesight that they can read a newspaper from a mile away. Now any fool knows that Eagles can't read. What's he trying to pull?"

And those crazy names. Have you ever tried to trade anything at the Trading Post? That guy don't do no trading, he wants Cash, cold hard Cash!...And the Mess Hall. Well, they sure named that one right."

(To the guy planted in the middle row): "Hey Fella, why ain't you laughing? Ain't you got no sense of humor?"  
Reply: "I don't have to laugh, my Troop's going home in the morning."

With that, the speaker chases after him completely out of sight.

## THE CANDY STORE

Four people from the audience are recruited to hold up blankets or sleeping bags, which form the backdrop and counter for the Candy Store.

The first boy enters -- "I want two fireballs and a Tanga Taffy, please."

"I'm sorry, but we're all out of those candies. Can I get you something else, son?"

"No thanks, I'll be back." The boy goes outside and meets with a friend. They come back in together. "Can we have a Baby Ruth and a Snickers bar, please?"

"I'm sorry, but we're all out of those candies. Can I get you something else, boys?" is the reply.

This goes on until there are four customers who come in together. The clerk again apologizes and says he's out of the candies they request.

"Gee whiz, Mister. You don't have fireballs, no tanga taffy, no Baby Ruth, no Snickers...If this is a Candy Store, just what kind of candies do you have?"

"Not much, just these four suckers you seen standing here beside me holding up these blankets."

## THE CARPENTER

The whole patrol can give this skit a real boost with Laurel & Hardy type antics. One guy is carrying an overly long board. Every time he turns to talk the board swings around, just missing another guy who is bending over to pick up a dropped nail, or whatever.

Then there are the two guys who carry through an imaginary pane of glass. When they stop for a moment a third guy walks directly into it and is laid out on the ground.

Then there are two nutty carpenters, one has been constantly taking imaginary nails from his box, nailing some and throwing others away. "Why are you throwing away perfectly good nails?" "The heads are on the wrong ends of these nails." "You dummy -- those nails are for the other side of the house!"

**COTTON**  
**(ALSO KNOWN AS J.C. PENNY)**

1) Spokesman keeps meeting guys with new clothes. A loud shirt, new shoes, bright socks, neat pants and hat. Each time, he remarks how snappy they look and ask where they got such neat looking clothes. "From Cotton," is always the reply....A while later, he meets a young guy with a black-eye, bruises, cut lip and only a towel wrapped around his waist. Sure enough, when the spokesman asks his name, it's "Cotton."

2) Various Scouts enter the department store to buy missing parts of their Scout uniform. A shirt, socks, hat, pants, etc. Each time, the clerk goes behind a curtain to get the item. There's always a big commotion, sounds like scuffling or a fight. Till finally a guy comes in looking for men's underwear. "Well, I'm sorry, you're in the wrong department; but wait I think I can help you out!" "Oh No! Not my shorts. I quit this crummy job," says the Cotton character (described above) as he runs out from behind the curtain.

## DOCTOR SKIT

There are all sorts of Doctor gags you can use to build a skit, here are a few examples. Use some imagination and play it up well, Doctor skits can be a lot of fun.

1.) Scout constantly babbling about his ailment until the Doctor finally tells him to stick out his tongue. Dr. says, "Good. Now keep it there till I've told you how to get well."

2.) The buxom woman (t-shirt & volleyballs) complains, because the Doctor has charged her \$50, just to paint her throat. Dr. says, "What did you expect, Lady, wall-to-wall carpet?"

3.) The guy has a serious memory problem, amnesia maybe. Can the Doctor help? "How long have you had this condition?" the Doctor asks. "What condition?" says the Amnesia victim.

4.) "You got to help me, Doc. My neck is stiff as a pipe, my head feels like a lump of lead and my nose is all stopped up." "You don't need a Doctor, son, you need a plumber."

### DOCTOR SKITS Cont'd.

5.) Then there's the running gag where the guy is taking pills to make him smarter. Each new perscription now costs him \$60.00. When he points this out to the Doctor after three weeks, the Doctor replies, "See, you're getting smarter already."

6.) And then the Psychiatrist. "Doc, I've got a real problem. I have a \$100,000 house, three cars, two kids in college and a wife with six credit cards."

"Sounds like you've got it made to me. What's the problem, son?"

"I only make \$60. per week."

7.) Husband, wife & the Doctor are all three in the examining room. The wife is a constant chatter box and just won't stop talking until the Doctor sticks a thermometer into her mouth.

"Goodness Gracious!" says the husband. "How much does one of those things cost. I've needed one for 40 years!"

## DOCTOR SKIT: MUST BE CATCHING

One of the oldest and funniest skits. The guy comes in to see the Doctor because he doesn't feel well. He doesn't have an appointment, so he's told he will have to wait...Then one at a time, six patients arrive that do have appointments. Each joins our friend in the waiting room for a few minutes before seeing the Doctor. Each has an obvious problem --- a twitching shoulder, a jerky leg, an uncontrollable itch on the back of his neck. And adding one right after another, our friends develops each one of these maladies. He pleads to see the Doctor next, but these people do have appointments. Finally, the Doctor can see him...And his first sight of the Doctor? The Doctor has now picked up all the twitching and jerky from his previous patients, too.

## THE ECHO

The Scout Patrol approaches the spot. Their Patrol Leader explains this is Echo Point, and that anything they shout will echo throughout the whole valley. He demonstrates with a loud "Hello." The Echo (one of your guys off stage) repeats it.

Each of the hikers takes a shot at it, shouting or singing. The Echo always repeats it...Until the stinger. That's when the Patrol Leader shouts "Mr. name is our Camp Director." It's repeated... "And he's the greatest Camp Director in the Whole World!"

The Echo shouts back, "BALONEY!"

## THE ENLARGING MACHINE

A blanket is held up in front of the audience. This is the magical Enlarging Machine. The Narrator explains that anything tossed inside will automatically be enlarged as it passes through.

He begins the demonstration by tossing in a stick, a log comes back over. Next he throws in a scrap of newspaper, the whole paper comes back. Then he tosses in a stone, a big rock comes back.

"Fake! Fake!" yells a man in the audience. "This is a fraud. I'll prove it doesn't work. Watch what happens when I throw in this washcloth." He does and a large towel comes back. He's so amazed, he turns his back to the machine...And with great exaggeration, the Narrator tosses a cup full of water into the machine. As the heckler turns around, a full bucket of water is thrown back on him.

Variation: A doll (the baby) is accidentally dropped into the machine and a full grown boy in diapers pops out shouting, "Mama!"—See Creative Campfires

## FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

Few skits are so funny and require so little advance preparation. Your Ring Announcer starts the big buildup as each fighter enters the ring. The Ref gives the rules, the fighters try to intimidate each other...And then the fight begins (done with a strobe-light effect using your flashlight).

Fighters swing wildly, dancing around the ring; faking knockdowns with "bicycle riding" falls as the light is flicked on and off. After the effect begins to wear, go on to the finish where the fighters are leaning against each other. When the Ref goes to raise the winner's hand, both fighters fall down.

Corner talk? "Don't give up now, Kid, you got a no-hitter going." Or "Am I doing any damage, Pops?" "Yeah, just keep swinging, Kid, the breeze may give him a head cold."

## FIRE IN THE COCKPIT

A water skit. Narrator sets the stage that this is an imaginary World War 2 bomber. Others take their places as Pilot, Copilot, Tailgunner and Bombadier. Volunteers are selected to kneel in place as engines and cargo.

Narrator tells the story of a daring raid far behind enemy lines. The bomber is spotted by the huge spotlights (flashlights) and actors carry on typical chatter between Pilot & crew. Tailgunner returns fire, as Pilots dive, bank and climb. An engine goes (falls out flat spread-eagled), then another. The cockpit takes enemy fire and is riddled with holes. The co-pilot does a "Three Stooges -style death scene complete with last few kicks).

Tailgunner starts shouting, "What's happening up there?" As always, Bombadier relays message. Garbled response. "What?" "Fire in the cockpit (softly)." "What?" Repeated louder. Then Tailgunner & Bombadier douse fire (and cargo) with pails of water.

## THE FORTUNE TELLER

Mystical character, usually dressed in white sheet toga and barefoot. Towel wrapped around head. He summons people from the audience for a palm reading. Camp staffers make great patsys for this skit.

"Give me your palm. Ah, I see you have a long love line A very long love line. That means it will be a very, very long time before anyone ever falls in love with you."

"Give your palm. Ah, a man of mystery, the lines of your palm are very faint, I see. (spits into guy's palm). No, that's not clouds of mystery, that's dirt. Go wash your hand, if you want me to read your palm."

"Give me your palm. Ah-ha! Very Interesting. I have only seen this once before. It is very rare. May I examine your right shoe. Yes, take it off and hand it to me. (He does). Ah-Ha! It is true. I foresee you are going on a journey, a very long journey into the night." With that the fortune teller hurls the shoe back into the audience and announces that concludes his readings for the night. He bows and departs.

## THE GERMAN SUBMARINE

A full crew man the imaginary submarine, with the Captain giving the orders, relayed by the Watch Officer to the Mate and then on to the crew fore and aft. And all replies are repeated back the same way.

The enemy is sighted topside, the word is passed. Degree readings and bearings are passed, plus all the ready Torpedo and fire orders to launch not one, but four different torpedos. Three miss, but the fourth one is a direct hit and prompts the wacky crew to join arms and lift legs (like a Chorus Line) in a loud round of "We Sank A Row Boat!"

## GESUNDHEIT

The German officer is addressing his troops and explains they are all going on a very dangerous mission behind enemy lines. Absolute silence must be observed at all times. Their very lives can depend on it.

A few steps into the journey, they're already behind the lines, crouching low, but still in a column. A big sneeze is heard. The officer yells Halt and demands to know who sneezed? No one admits it, so he shoots the last man in line. They proceed. There's another sneeze and another shooting. It happens until there is only the officer and one man left. A sneeze. And then the officer turns with blood in his eye..."So it was you, all the time. Vell, Gesundheit! Take care of that cold."

## THE GHOST JOKE

A weary traveller arrives at the inn. "I want a room for the night. I've been on the road all day and I can't go another mile."

"There's only one room left, says the clerk, and I'm afraid it's haunted. A man died in his sleep there one night and ever since no one has been able to stay the night."

"I don't care, I'm not afraid of no ghosts. Just give me that key."

This scene is repeated three times as each traveller enters, demands the key, goes to the room, lays down and pulls the covers up to his shoulder. Each time, a ghost appears (under a white sheet). "Booooo! I am the white-eyed ghost and this is my room. Go away! Away! Away!" Naturally, they scream and go racing out of the room.

The fourth traveller is the biggest, burliest guy yet. He merely turns his back and says, "if you don't get out of here and be quiet, you'll be the black-eyed ghost in the black and blue sheet."

Optional ending: Use Camp Director as fourth guy and have the ghost run away scared.

## THE GREAT WALDO

Another of our favorites is the arrival of the Mystic. Build it up as you like. Use chair bearers, slaves with palm branches, dancing girls, etc. Basically, Waldo does several tricks with the help of his assistant.

First, ala The Great Carnac, he holds sealed envelopes to his forehead and answers the enclosed questions pertaining to camp life.

Answer: "He hasn't actually been in the water in so long, his body is really covered with rust." Waldo opens the envelopes and reads, "Question: How does the waterfront director maintain his deep, rich tan all winter?"

Answer" "If he fires the Camp Cook." Opens envelope to read, "How could Mr. (Camp Director) make our camp a safer place this summer?"

In addition, Waldo blindfolds himself and then can identify objects from people in the audience, as his Assistant holds them up and gives an obvious clue. "What is this I am holding, O flat-footed one?" -- Shoe. "What is this I am holding, O Blonde headed one? -- Comb. Etc.

## HIKER WALK-ONS

Two guys play the part. One has all the crazy answers and the other always chases him off after the gag, bopping him over the head with his floppy hat.

They climb over an imaginary fence. "Boy these places always give me the shakes. Why do they build fences around graveyards, anyway?" "Because people are just dying to get into them."

Apparently lost. "You know, Jeb. I think we must have taken the wrong trail back there. Where is that lake?" "I dunno, why don't you ask Mom, she always put everything away where you can't find it."

Carrying a rope and big clubs. "I don't get it, we'll never get Wilderness Survival unless we catch a rabbit for supper." "I told ya!" "Aw right, Mr. Wiseguy, just what do you think is the best way to catch a rabbit?" "Well, I just stand behind a tree and sound like a carrot. And when he...(chased out of sight).

## IF I WERE NOT A BOY SCOUT

A fun skit & song. Up to five guys enter in costume, with backs to the audience. One at a time, each will turn around and do his solo phrase. Then everyone joins in the chorus. As each solo is complete, all the soloists who have gone before repeat their phrases, all at the same time.

Chorus: "If I were not a Boy Scout, something else I'd rather be...If I were not a Boy Scout, a \_\_\_\_\_ I would be." Soloist adds: "And this is what you'd hear me say:" before his solo.

1.) If I were not a Boy Scout, something else, I'd rather be...If I were not a Boy Scout, a Baby, I would be...And this is what you'd here me say: Mommy, Daddy, I love you...Mommy, Daddy, I love you...Mommy, Daddy, I love you...If I were not a Boy Scout, etc."

2.) Birdwatcher with Coke bottles for binoculars: "There's a Bird, There's a Bird, Splat!....There's a bird, There's a Bird, Splat!...There's a bird, etc.

3.) Carpenter with a hammer & board: "Two by Four, And Nail it to the Floor...Two by Four, And Nail it to the Floor...Two by Four, And Nail it to the Floor "

4.) Farmer with a pail, milking. "Give, Betsy, Give. The Kids have got to live! .. Give, Betsy, Give, the Kids have got to live! .. Give, Betsy, Give. The Kids have got to live!..If I were not a Boy Scout, etc.

5.) Fireman with imaginary net. "Jump Lady, Jump Lady, Ooooh Splat!...Jump Lady, Jump Lady, Ooooh Splat! Jump Lady, Jump Lady, Ooooh Splat!"

6.) Motorcyclist on imaginary cycle. "Motorcycle, Motorcycle, Go Daddy Go! ... Motorcycle, Motorcycle, Go Daddy Go! ... Motorcycle, Motorcycle, Go Daddy Go!"

7.) Plumber with plunger. "Round the bowl, And push it down the hole!...Round the bowl, And push it down the hole!...Round the bowl and push it down the hole!"

8.) Stewardess with a plastic bag. "Here's your coffee, here's your tea, here's your plastic bag, Blah! ... Here's your coffee, here's your tea, here's your plastic bag, Blah!...Here's your coffee, here's your tea, here's your plastic bag, Blah!"

## IMPORTANT PAPERS

1). The Army Captain is looking everywhere for his papers - His Important Papers. The Sgt, CPL and two Privates are enlisted in the search. And each time they bring him some important looking papers, he shouts, "No, I mean the Important Papers." It eventually turns out that he was looking for a roll of toilet tissue papers, as he holds up the roll and shouts "I've found them! I found the important paper...Relief at last!"

2). The little kid goes into the General Store..."My Mother sent me to the store to get some...My Mother sent me to the store to get some...My Mother sent me to the store to get some..." "Gee whiz, what do you want?" says the clerk. "my Mother sent me to the store to get some pep-pers." "Peppers, Oh yes, Peppers. Does she want hot peppers or green peppers?" Kid goes home to check. Returns with same lines. Again for black pepper or red pepper. What he really wants is toilet pep-per.

## THE INVENTOR

The kid is doing science experiments in his room. He wears an overly large white shirt and pours liquids back and forth from one bottle to another.

His Mom, again one of our buxom camp creations with volleyballs & t-shirt) comes in and starts complaining about all the mess that clutters up his room. Clean it up, or there'll be no supper.

"I can't, Mom. I'm too busy inventing this formula?"

The mother laughs. "What formula?"

"Yeah, yeah. They laughed at Edison, they laughed at Graham Bell, they laughed at Geck, and now you're laughing at me, too." the boy says.

"I've heard of Edison and I know Graham Bell, but what did Geck invent?" she asks.

"Nothing, but they sure laughed at him!"

"All right, wise guy, clean us this room!" Chases boy.

### IS IT TIME?

The gang is all lying down on the ground, one arm used as a pillow, the other stretched over the next person's shoulder as they are turned toward the right side.

Both questions and answers are repeated singly by each person as the message is passed down the line and back. "Is it time yet, Paw?" .. "Not yet, son." .. "Is it time yet, Paw?" .. "Not yet, son." .. "I really think it's time now, Paw." .. "Not quite yet, son."

Finally it's time. Paw passes the message, "It's time, is everybody ready?" ... "Yes" all the way back down the line. Then in unison, they all turn facing to the left side, each using his left arm as a pillow and placing the right arm across the next person's shoulder.

## IT MUST BE SPRING

Another one to pull on novice campers is a skit about the four seasons. Volunteers represent the trees in the forest and all the animals. In the winter, the animals have all gone to sleep and the trees droop their barren branches...When Spring comes, the trees spread their leaf-covered branches (arms up & spread out); the animals return to the forest. And several other guys (as yet unidentified) have been instructed to chase each other in and around the trees. Ah yes, this must be Spring, the announcer says.

"Sez, who?" says a voice from the audience. "How do you know it's not Summer?"

"Simple," is the announcer's reply. "Don't you see the saps running in the trees?"

## JEB & EBB

No campfire is complete without the two hillbillys, Jeb & Ebb. Barefoot, jeans and plaid shirt, droopy hats and a bit of wheatstraw sticking out here and there.

"Where ye been, Jeb? I hain't seen you in four years"

"Why I been off to college, learning about spelling and History and Trigger-nometry and such. What have you been up to?"

Eb says:"I opened a Pet Store back home. Yes sir, you'll have to come see me sometime, standing there amongst my dumb animals."

"Well make sure you're wearing a hat, so's I'll recognize you, Ebb."

"Why look, there's a bunch of cows over there."

"Not a bunch, Ebb. A Herd."

"Heard of what?"

"Of Cows, Ebb."

"Of course, I've heard of cows."

"No, I mean a Cow herd."

"I don't care iffen he did hear, we're just a talking."

*Make up some  
with more corn*

## JUMBO THE ELEPHANT

Like a carnival barker, the Narrator draws attention to "Jumbo the Elephant! (two boys under a blanket) Eighth Wonder of the World. A Pachyderm of extraordinary intelligence that follows my every command."

And on command, Jumbo walks, sits, turns, balances on two legs and kneels. But for the grand finale, you'll need two volunteers from the audience. They will lie on the ground, and without harming a single hair on their head, Jumbo will run, passing over them not once, twice, but three times.

Jumbo does his best, but on the third pass, he pauses, lifts his hind leg into the air and lets fly with a concealed bucket of water.

## KING OF SIAM

Usually reserved for the Camp Staff to put on. They really do it up right with native bearers, dancing girls, fans, etc. The bespeacled Hindu Prince has come to select new members for his court. They are bodily escorted to the front, told to kneel and remain silent until they learn the sacred chant as a group. The words are given only a few syllables at a time, very slowly. And repeated over and over a little faster each time until they know it is "O What A Goose I Am."

Variation: Inductees are blindfolded after selection. They have seen the Hindu with a very large ring on his finger. A second ring (aluminum foil) is on his big toe but they don't see that one until they've been forced to kneel and his ring. They actually kiss the hand ring, which is quickly hidden, and the big toe is the first thing they see when the blindfold comes off. What a sight!



## LITTLE ERNEST

An all time favorite at Camp is the midget skit where one boy is the head and feet (shoes on hands) and another behind him under a poncho or tarp is the hands.

Ernest worked on the waterfront at camp and demonstrated how to row, paddle a canoe and run the waterfront. He danced with joy at being invited to a party and got ready by brushing his teeth and attempting a quick shave.

No matter how unbelievable it seems, with a little practice at goofing up, this can be the funniest skit in camp all summer.

### **THIS LITTLE KID'S GOTTA GO WHEE!**

The Patrol is hiking and the little kid is at the very back of the column. He tugs at the sleeve of the man in front and whispers in his ear. With much exaggeration, the message is whispered all the way up the line (but just loud enough so the audience can hear). And then the reply comes back, all the way down the line, "Not now, wait till we stop."

This whole episode is repeated three or four times. until the little kid finally gets permission to go. He leaps into the air with arms thrown wide and shouts with much excitement, "Whee! Whee! Whee!" And then, very solemnly, he gets back into line and the column marches out.

## THE MOTORCYCLE GANG

Several boys have rolled out their sleeping bags and immediately fall sound asleep. The Motorcycle gang on their imaginary hawks ride past, then circle back.

"I feel like a rumble," says the leader. "Yes sir, I crave action. Let's mug these Boy Scouts." They pick one tent and then go drag those two fellows out, rough them up and hold'em upside down by the ankles shaking out all their money. Then the Motorcycle Gang leaves. The guys in the other tent are awakened, but don't see what happened. They just complain about all the noise.

Well, the mugged guys move their tents to the opposite side of the other sleepers. Then bed down. The Motorcycle Gang comes back. They skip the first guys they come to and re-mug the first group, thinking these were the ones they missed before. They get no money, so they leave...But its at this point the mugges move again. And the Gang, realizes they must have made a mistake on the second trip comes back and re-mugs the same guys. At this point, the Mugges give up and run, everyone chases.

## MOVING FURNITURE

Volunteers from the audience are posed to resemble furniture in a room -- a sofa, easy chair, dresser, bed, fireplace and book case. One person is chosen to "study the room." As he points to each object, the volunteer is to call out the name of the furnishing they represent.

Once he is satisfied that he can identify each piece, he turns his back and allows the furniture to be rearranged.

Here's where the fun begins. The identifier is in on the gag. He identifies the first two furnishings correctly, but misses the rest. Then as he points to the remaining pieces, each identify themselves again. "Sofa, Chair, Fire..." "What?" "...Fire!..." "What?" ...Fire!

That's the cue. He's unknowingly said it three times so the audience could hear and two would-be fire rush in with a pail of water shouting, "Where's the fire?" And, of course, everyone points to it.

## THE MUGGING

Three guys are huddled out front as the skit begins. Two rush off into hiding (crouching down nearby), as a fourth man approaches. The third guy inquires:

"Excuse me, sir. But have you seen a policeman anywhere around?"

"No, I haven't seen a policeman all evening."

"Good, this is a stick-up," the third man shouts. The other two run out of hiding and all three start a real knock-down dragout fight with the fourth. Finally, he is subdued and the bad guys remark:

"30 cents! You mean you put up a fight like that for a crummy 30 cents?"

"Why no, I thought you were after the \$500 I had hidden in the bottom of my shoe."

And with that, the three chase after him, completely out of sight. The victim hollering, "Help, Police, Help!"

## THE NEW SUIT

You need three guys -- a doctor, tailor & patient.

"But Doctor, I really need help. You're the fifth specialist I've seen. Can't you tell me why my eyes bulge out so. Isn't there a cure?"

"I don't know, son. I'm really not sure. But I do know you're worrying to much about it and that's not helping matters any. Why don't you go out shopping; do something to take your mind off of it. Buy some new clothes or something."

Later, he enters a tailor's shop. The clerk comes over.

"I'd like to see something in a 36 Regular, please."

"No sir, you mean a size 38 Regular, don't you?"

"I beg your pardon, but I've been wearing a 36 Regular for the past five years. 36 Regular, please."

The clerk measures him, shakes his head. "Be serious, Mister. If you wore a size 36 Regular it would be so tight, it would make your eyes bulge out."

## THE PEANUT BUTTER SKIT

(Known by this and a dozen other names, in as many different settings...Adapt it as you like.)

Several boys come hiking in. "All right, guys, Let's break for lunch. We'll take 30 minutes, unpack your lunches."

Everyone sits down and unwraps sandwiches from their own paper bags. One has ham, another tuna, and so on. The third has peanut butter. "Yuk! I hate peanut butter." He opens another, then another. Each time, its peanut butter. "Yuk,I hate peanut butter!"

Then one of the other boys speaks up. "We go through this same thing every trip. If you don't like peanut butter, why don't you tell your Mom to fix something different next time."

"You leave my Mom out of this. I fix my own sandwiches for these hikes."

## THE PILL

Joe sits in the doctor's office, buttoning up his shirt. "I'm glad everything's okay, Doc. But I still have trouble getting up in the morning. I've been late twice this week. Can't you give me something that will help?"

He goes home, takes the pill, and pulls a blanket up over him, going sound asleep. The next day he yawns and stretches his arms, "What a great day." Jumps up and rushes off to work. "Great day, boss. I didn't have a bit of trouble getting up this morning."

"That's fine," says the boss. "But where were you yesterday?"

## THE PRAIRIE

Use your best storyteller as the Narrator. He will spin a tale about life in the Old West, harsh frontier life on the Prairie.

Four volunteers from the audience represent that Prairie. They lie flat on their stomachs as the story is told of harsh winds that swept across the Prairie...A boy sweeps them with a broom...The relentless sun that beats down on the Prairie...Boy beats them with a rolled towel...And the rains that came down on the Prairie... Boy sprinkles water on them.

The storyteller keeps repeating the phrases in his story (the rain can get heavier, too!) until the volunteers wise up. And if they still haven't given up, it's time to bring out the six biggest guys in camp as the Thundering Herd of Buffalo.

## QUICK TAKES.

Here are some quick punchline scenes to fill-in at your campfire, while other groups are getting ready to do their skits. Most are too short to become a full skit, but they make great time fillers.

1.) THE INDIAN. Two Scouts come upon an Indian lying prone with his ear to the ground. -- "Ah-hee!" he says. "A man on horseback, a chestnut mare; a woman in a red dress with her blond-headed son riding in a buckboard pulled by two white horses, about 30 minutes to the North!"

"Wow Indian. You mean you can tell all that just by listening to the vibration from the ground?"

"No she just ran over men half an hour ago and headed that-a-way."

2.) CAMP TRADING POST. The clerk apologizes, "I'm sorry, son. But I just can't cash that money order for you without some identification. Don't you have a friend in Camp?"

"Not me, Sir. I'm the Troop Bugler." he replies.

3.) FIRST AID. A guy staggers out to the center, clutches his heart, screams "Help me!" then falls down. Two stretcher beares come racing out; gently lift him on to the stretcher and rush off. The victim falls straight through the bottom and is left lying on the ground.

4.) BASEBALL GAME. Tv Announcer: "Ladies & Gentlemen, we join this baseball game in progress, here at the bottom of the fifth inning, bases loaded, two away and Duke coming up to bat." It's ball one, then a strike, and another. The umpire calls 'em, until he gets hit in the head, staggers over the plate and falls flat on his face. TV Announcer: "Unbelievable, folks, two away, bases loaded in the bottom of the fith and we have just witnessed the Fall of the Roaming Umpire!"

5.) THE WAITER. "Get me a cup of coffee and a doughnut. And step on it." demands the grouchy customer. The waiter quickly pours him a cup, sets it on the table. Then drops the guy's doughnut (rounded piece of bread) on the ground and steps on it. Grouch chases him off.

7.) CONFUCIOUS SEZ. The wise old sage of the Orient comes out in a long robe, flat hat and Fu Manchu mustache on his chin. "Confucious say, There is only one thing worse than a Camp Cook who can cook and won't. One who can not cook and does...like here at Camp \_\_\_\_."

8.) NEWSPAPER SKIT. Newsboy is hawking newspapers on the corner. His pitchline: "Read all about it, One Man Swindled! Read all about it!" One guy rushes up, buys a newspaper and begins to hunt for the story. The pitchline changes: "Read all about it, Two Men Swindled!"

9.) PHONE CALL TO THE VET. Makes like he's talking on the telephone. "Yeah, Doc, I know it's natural for a dog to chase after cars. But how many Great Danes have you heard of who catch them and bury them in your back yard?"

10.) BOARD OF REVIEW. Reviewer explains, "Now Johnny, this is your first Board of Review. We don't want you to be nervous, you know everyone here. We just want to ask you some questions about your First Aid merit badge. Okay? ...Good."

"Now what would you do if you were all alone and you fell and broke your legs in two places?" Reviewer asks.

"I don't guess I'd go back there anymore," Johnny replies....And reviewers chase after him.

11.) THE BLACKSMITH. The kid is pleading, "You promised I could help. You promised. When can I help?"

The blacksmith (shirtless with black apron and rubber mallet) stops his imaginary pounding, and says, "Okay, when I take this shoe out of the fire, I'll put it on this anvil. And when I nod my head, you hit it with the hammer." He does, he nods, and sure enough the kid hits him in the head with the hammer.

12.) CONFUCIOUS SEZ. "Confucious say, Many times, people are like blisters. These honorable persons never show up until the work is all done."

## RALPH THE WONDER DOG

One guy enters, followed by another on all fours.  
"Hi! My name is Fred Smith and this is Ralph the Wonder Dog. I call him that 'cause he is the smartest dog you've ever seen."

"I taught him everything he knows in one afternoon. Watch this--Roll over Ralph!(He does). Play dead, Ralph! (Spread out flat, spread-eagled). Sit down, Ralph!"

Second guys enters with his dog. "Wait a minute, I saw that. Your dog ain't so great. Even my dog can do those tricks. Watch this. --Roll over, Rex! (Hesitates, then falls over on one side, but doesn't roll). Play dead, Rex. (Hesitates, then rolls over on back with all fours in the air). Now Point, Rex, Point! (Assumes the position, but begins scratching fleas instead).

Fred resumes, "Ralph, Attention! (Stands on hind legs and gives snappy salute). Fetch, Ralph Fetch! (Does with stick in teeth). Now Beg, Ralph, Beg! (Makes like Jolson, down on one knee with hands clasped).

Second guy: "I don't believe it. You taught him all that in one afternoon?" "Yes. The traing part is easy, but first you've got to be smarter than the dog "

## THE RESTAURANT

Two people are selected from the audience to kneel on all fours, as the tables in the new Camp \_\_\_\_ Restaurant.

The customers look over the menu, and talking loud enough for everyone to hear, complain that the prices are just too high. They all get up and leave, including the waiter...Only the tables are left, and they have the ice water still sitting on their backs.

The customers (your group) are in on the gag. Another is the waiter, who brings a small pitcher and cups of ice water to set on the table...If you're really devilish, he might even spill some when he sets it down.

Now watch the fun as they try to wriggle out from under the cups without getting wet themselves.

## RINSO BLUE

"And now a word from our sponsor, Rinso Blue -- the washday miracle," says the Announcer. "Give us your roughest, your toughest, your dirtiest soiled garments and I'll show you just what I mean."

First boy comes up and pulls off a dark colored shirt. Spokesman quickly launders it in a tub of soapy water. He scrub-a-dub-dubs it, then holds it up a white T-shirt at arms length, then takes a big sniff. "Looks clean, smells clean, Hang it on the Line." Hands it to the boy.

A parade of boys that follow all give him dirty items for clean and he repeats the jingle, "Into the Rinso Blue, Ah yes, Looks Clean, Smells Clean, Hang it on the Line." That is, until a Scout brings up an overly large pair of undershorts that supposedly belong to the Camp Director. Again and again, it's "Into the Rinso Blue, Looks Cl-- Into the Rinso Blue...Well back to the laboratory, we'll have to find something stronger than Rinso Blue for these shorts."

## SCHOOL DAZE

Probably few skits offer as much promise to poke fun at your favorite victims, as turning back the clock to the days of the little red school house, putting on your craziest hat, loudest shirt, pulling your pants above your knees, and answering the School Marm when she calls the name of your intended victim.

TEACHER: "Good news, Class. We're only going to have only one-half day of school this morning."

Class cheers enthusiastically.

TEACHER: "Well have the other one-half day of school after lunch."

TEACHER: "Name, Use the word officiate in a sentence."

REPLY: "Johnny got sick off the fish he ate in the camp dining hall."

TEACHER: "Now, Name, if I had two sandwiches and you two sandwiches, what would we have?" REPLY: "Lunch."

What corny ones can your group think up?

## THE TALL TREES

TV Announcer: "Welcome to the Wide World of Sports. This week we're here in the Tall Tree Country of Oregon for the International Lumberjack Competition. For 5 days, the toughest Woodsmen in the world have competed in tree felling, log sawing and power chopping. Now here are the top three finalists." Introduces them, and each heads to a separate tree for the tree climb competition.

TV Announcer: "It's so foggy here today we can barely see these fellows as they start and it will get even worse the higher they climb, but we do have voice communication. Come in, name, how high are you?" Each replies, adding a little to their height each time and complaining about the fog getting worse. On the final round, one guy reports that he is at 2000 ft. "But, name, the trees here only go up to 1600 ft.," says the Announcer. You here a cry for help and then a big crashing fall. "Well, it's back to you Jim McKay, with the Int'l Eskimo Dog Sled Races in Sasketawan...."

## TENDERFOOT CAMPERS

Lightweight igloo-stype tent works best.

"Man, we hiked so far today, I bet I'll fall right off to sleep." "Me, too, I'm bushed." They crawl inside tent. From off stage: "See you in the morning, Tenderfeet." Good nights all around.

Lights out. Then a light comes on. Then out. Then on. The tent shakes considerably. "Will you lie still, I want to get to sleep." "I'm sorry, I just can't get comfortable in this thing...Jamie, does a sleeping bag have handles?" "No, dummy, sleeping bags don't have no handles." "Oh, well I guess I must be sleeping in my knapsack." " You dummy, go to sleep, will ya?"

Still more restlessness. "You know, we're pretty tough guys, Jamie. I bet none of them sissy girls could spend a night out in the woods like this." "Yeah, yeah. Now go to sleep will you!"

Lie still for a moment, then lights begin flashing on and off all over the place inside the tent. Then the two rush off stage, screaming all the time, "Spider! Big Hairy Spiders in our tent! I ain't sleeping with no spiders!"

### THREE RIVERS

The Camp Cook is stirring the contents of a big kettle or dutch oven, when along comes a stranger. "What's cooking? Sure does smell good." goes the dialogue. "Homemade stew, want a plate?" the cook replies.

"If it's not any trouble. Do you have an extra plate?" he asks. "Sure do, Three Rivers just finished cleaning some," replied the Cook. The guy picks up a plate where the Cook is pointing. "Are you sure these plates are clean?" he asks. "Sure are, stranger. Three Rivers jest cleaned'em."

This is the whole crux of the skit. Is the plate clean? Three Rivers cleaned'em. Make sure the audience gets the point: have two more strangers come in and get served.

The third stranger volunteers to do the dirty plates, but the Cook says "Never mind about that. Three Rivers will take care of them. Three Rivers! Three Rivers! Here Boy, Here! Three Rivers, Come Here!"

Three Rivers is a dog.(Boy on all fours), enters.

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parking lot." They all fall out of the scene.

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## THE VIPER IS COMING

Several guys are milling around the campfire area talking to each other, when a rather desperate fellow comes staggering in. "The Viper is coming! The Viper is coming! Run for your lives!"

He meets one guy enroute and spreads the word. Then together they warn the rest. "The Viper is coming! The Viper is coming! Run for your lives!"

Everyone panics, they shiver, shake, bump into each other, and finally scatter in all directions shouting "The Viper is coming! The Viper is coming! Run for your Lives."

Finally, in walks a small fellow carrying a roll of toilet tissue strung out on the ground behind him. He says, with an accent, "Yah, Did somevun call me?"

## WHERE ARE YOU JOHN?

Skits are great, but stunts like this also make for a lively campfire.

Two boys, blindfolded, kneel on all fours. In their left hands they hold opposite ends of a towel, boppers of rolled newspaper in the other.

The first one calls, "Where are you John?" "Here I am," the other replies, as he rolls to the side trying to elude the questioner, who now takes a single swat with his bopper. If the second man is hit, No.1 can question him again and take another swat. And so on, until he misses. If he had missed, No.2 gets to ask the question and take a swing.

Once you've done this demonstration, get some participants from the audience...A big guy and a little kid, for instance, and watch the fun. Keep it brief and only one pair up front at a time.

## WORLD'S CHAMPION SPITTER

Spitting Contest with such contestants as Juicy Jaws Johnson, Slobbering Sam Smith, and Balloon-cheeks Bob. Not introduced, but still bugging him throughout the competition is a small boy, begging for the chance to compete. contestants fake it all: There's the high, the low, outside and curve spits, where the catcher with his pail and thumping finger does all the work. There's the spinner, the drop, blindfolded, between the legs, over the left shoulder, with a mirror and even a spiral.

One by one, all of the contestants are eliminated with misses (One spit in the catchers eye, another spit knocks a fellow contestant down They give the little kid a try. He does the juicer (empty pail of water) and the Cannon Ball (knocks bottom out of pail) and his Supershot spit. Catcher makes a dive for it, misses. A big thud is heard from far off in the woods.

And finally, the spit around the world. After much buildup, he spits and they wait and wait. "I hear it coming, I hear it coming!" The catcher races with the bucket and is knocked back with such force he spills the pail (of water) over his shoulder into the audience).

## WORLD'S GREATEST PICKPOCKET

Announcer: "Ladies & Gentlemen, You're looking at the World's Greatest Pickpocket. Only seconds ago, he passed through the audience and without you even suspecting, he pickpocketed each of these items." (Returns wallet, watch, flashlight and a candy bar -- stops, takes a bite out of the candy bar, then returns it).

A few simple demonstrations follow as he pickpockets a few other people in front of the audience -- whistles, pens, combs, etc. But the ultimate challenge is still to come, as the Announcer introduces the World's No.2 Pickpocket.

They swap items back and forth that they have supposedly pickpocketed from each other, until the Challengers pulls out a T-shirt which he says No.1 was wearing only a few moments ago. Not to be outdone, No.1 confesses he wasn't going to show it, but he pulls out an overly large pair of boxer shorts that No. 2 had been wearing.

## WORST AID

Your best actor comes running up, trips over his own feet and falls into a forward roll. He is laid out cold. Your team of Worst Aiders now rushes onto the scene with a good supply of bandages. They begin applying Worst Aid for everything from a simple sprain to stopped breathing, talking out loud as they work.

Real consolation, we might add, "Boy, he really looks bad.".."Worst accident I've ever seen.".."He's turning blue.".."Boy, have you ever seen so much blood.".."See, I told you not to turn his head back around, now you done broke his neck."

All the time, they've been tying bandages as fast as they can, so he will look like a Mummy, when victim No.2 goes running through and you hear a big crash off stage. "Boy, what an accident!" the Leader shouts and they all run off, leaving the Mummy, who finally gets up and hobbles after them, shouting "Hey, what about me?" over and over again.