

KEETOOWAH *Stories*



From the United Keetoowah Band

Recorded, compiled, transcribed and translated by

Durbin Feeling

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KEETOOWAH CHEROKEE STORIES

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Acknowledgements

These stories were told in the classroom during the weeks I taught Cherokee Literacy at the United Keetoowah Band headquarters in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, during the summer of 2006.

I would like to thank George and Wanda Byrd, Jim Henson, DJ. McCarter, and Dorothy Powell for telling these short stories. They were the ones brave enough to tell stories without hesitation. Altogether, there were 12 students who completed the certification course. Congratulations to all of you.

Some of these students drove well over 100 miles to take part in a class that was taught entirely in Cherokee. There are many more Cherokee speakers in northeastern Oklahoma who are more than able to tell their own stories, and I encourage them to do so.

Although this is not a finished work, by a long shot, there is a wealth of information in each of these stories. Along with the linguistic information one can feast upon, you will definitely find cultural richness, sadness, and of course, what is Cherokee without laughter. We had a lot of fun in this class.

These stories will, for a long time to come, serve as a great source of information for linguists, teachers and students of Cherokee, and anyone who is curious enough to read them.

I dedicate this combined effort to George Wickliffe, Chief of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees, and to his administration for their support.

--Durbin Feeling

The Pretty Day

Wanda Byrd

A bθf̄ ʌn̄əʌh̄v̄ ʌn̄i, i, θəʌTR̄ Eθ̄ ʃPR̄K̄ʌʌ̄ θZθ̄ ʃVE. Zθf̄ əi
θTθh̄v̄ʌ̄ W̄r̄ D̄θ̄θ̄ V̄əiAḠW̄. Zθf̄ D̄θ̄ ʌʃ̄ʌ̄θ̄ iʌ̄r̄ W̄r̄ θ̄θ̄
Gθʌ̄ə̄ə̄. Zθf̄ əi θTθh̄v̄ʌ̄ KT̄ Īə̄S̄ ə̄ə̄ Ḡʌ̄V̄ə̄. V̄ə̄ə̄ 0̄ə̄S̄ T̄ʃ̄
Īə̄.



Phonetic transcription

Ko sinale dayosdahnig danelv, v, osda'isv gvn galjohid nanow gadogv. Nowle sdi o'inhnigid tal ahaw dosdigohwaht. Nowle am diganehv vdal tal sasa jandawosg. Nowle sdi o'inhnigid jo' jisdu sgwu janedohv. Dosgwu uwodu iga gehv.

Idiomatic translation

This morning we started out from our house, uh, as we were driving along there was a fat turkey standing there. And a little further on we saw two deer. And we say two geese swimming at the pond. And a little further on there were three rabbits hopping around. And it sure was a pretty day.

Show Me the Way

Wanda Byrd

RIfroo Ifi-ulu Ifozipwaa e KIfriAW OoHoo JI. fAoo Ifi Shooq4 RIfi
iwoy[] e DI-ooG. uJiA jVToo. yC[] EG.hobLoo4. Zo[] jooohyuh
Looq e Di DooVp 4[] h ooA Ooofooo. Zo i JI G.hoofoe jhooR JI.
yC[] ooee EG.hobLoooooo Goo. eioo sPKS oooIMy, L hYoo-oo e Di Ifi.
oohooTzoo Goo. 4Z L hooLoo JI uThoooo Z Looq JI. Zo
Roofo JI hoofooo, Goo. Aoo Zo yC ooSGH, Doo[] Di OoHoo Looq
JI DooV. iwoy[] e Boo joooi EG.hoofooo, Goooo. L ooGooW Wf,
KT, []yoo ooGoo Dooohoo. Doo[] Z Zofo []oo oo uooIME. Z
oofo hThMG, Looee hooLoooo Goo. iwoy[] Boo joooi hoo[]oo,
Goooo.



Phonetic transcription

Ejidv jigehv jikanohesgo na joiinel usatv didl. Sohdiv geli dunihyalvse eji vsginh na
agehyuj, wodiyo judo'idv. Gihlinh gvwanisdawadvse. Nowunh di'unahnigisa
danelv na'v anedohe senh yo sdi unlenahihe. Nole v didl wanilosge junilosv didl.
Gihlinh sqwu gvwanisdawdehew jadhiv. Na'vdiv gahljode osdiluhg, hla yoginanhte
na'v gesv. Osdiktenohodv jadhiv. Sehno hla yosdihwatihe didl wo'inilohisdi hno
danelv didl. Hnodv svhiyey didl nigalsdihv, jadhiv. Kohiyv now gihl udelohosv,

RAPΘΛ-Ŷ ĩĳĳ ħĳ-Ŷ ρϱ TVLϱiϱ ĩĳ ĩĳ Ğϱ ĩĳ ĞĳWĳ. DSVĳ. TEĳ RAPΘΛ-Ŷ ĩĳ. ĳĳϱ ϱϱ VĞ DLĳΘĳĳĳ ĩĳ. ĩĳĳϱϱ ϱϱ Ğĳĳ ħĳĳ Aĳ ĩĳ. ĳĳϱ Ğĳĳ ϱϱ VĞ ĞĞĳ TĳWĳϱ ρϱ Jĳĳ EVĳ ħĳĳĳ ĳĳĳVĳ ρϱ ĩĳĳ. ρϱϱϱ ϳVΘ DĳDΘĳĳ ϳĳĳĳĳ A ĩĳ. ĩĳĳϱϱ Θ ϱϱ ϱϱ ϱϱ ϱϱ ϱϱ A ĩĳ. ϱϱϱϱ JP ϳVΘĳ ĩĳĳ. D4ϱ P B ρϱ ϱϱĳĳĳ SĞĳĳ ħĳĳ ĩĳ ħĳ ϱϱ ĩĳĳ. ϳVΘ ϳĳDϱĳWĳV ϳĳ Ğĳĳ ħĳ ĩĳĳĳĳĳ Tĳĳĳ. ĞV.



Phonetic transcription

Jidvhl'i'lvsd no jogilvwisdanhdi ojinv ojihnnoehlvsgv ojihalvsg. Ojihnohesgv vhyugiyu jinusdidan koh jig. Igad henh aniyoneg hlv now yunatsuy yojihnnoehlvsga yig sgi yusd digilosv, hesd henh howa yigvnel. Tsgwisd henh udlasitv'ehd utloyasdo. Gajoniheshvhnno na joiyohl jigehv, sinale ogodididsgv. Dosgwu yusdidan doyi didl unhji yig, unesdalo, amayuhld ojev, dojagvsgwosgv. Nowunh jo'ikisahnv sdikid jidojatvsidiv now ojaduhindohv. Aniyonega yidvkanose kohl jig, amayuhld sgi nvdvnehv uhyvdl, ijulahadv na juntan yon unineg jagvhahl yandados hen. Sginh dojihnosehv jidagalo. Sgenh nunsd koh jig vhyugiyu jinusdidan. Igvkews he igohiyusv gusd nigadvnhd gehv gajiyohelv. Nehenh na nvwot jidigisgo na undahnehdi, uwasvwuhenh yinadadv jigalsgasdi

sgina. Kohig henh jgehv igohlvhnh nvwot egohlvnanehv jgehv nigolv henh igihlahna'vnh gehv yuw gehv waditad atugisd igvs egohlvnanehv hehv. Skenh nvwot doyu adadihwisdisg gehv. Tsgwiyahenh uwasvh nigasd koh jig. Skenh yusd nvwoti kilo yuhwahtv ijulahaw henh gusdiw kdohd ngehvnd yandados henh tsgwisd. Heliwhenh sgina ani'anakt yidaniktilug koh jig. Tsgwiyahenh na nvwot undahnehdi unalgsasd koh jig. Uhnahenh didl deginasin gelisgo. Asehnv dlv yv henh dvdadelohos duyukdv nigehvnd gehv niga nvwot jidikisg. Sgiwle yini'alstanidoh sgwu yudaha nga jidegadanihosgo igeliho. Wado.

Idiomatic translation

Last week a few of us from work were sitting around and talking about things. We were talking about how diseases run rampant these days. As we talk, and if there are white people around, they don't believe what kind of life we had in the past. There is always too much disbelief mixed in. I was telling them about the time when we were children, we were made to get up early. Even if there was snow or ice, we went to the water and washed our faces. And as we got older and got used to doing that then we would wade around in the water. If you tell the white people today, that we waded the cold water, they will tell you that you are part polar bear. That's what we talked about this past week. That's why there's so much disease today. I told them that we have forgotten the things we used to do. The drugs that we receive from the pharmacy, and as much as we depend on it, it only numbs our bodies. Long time ago, our medicine was made for us and we had it anytime we needed it. We could just reach for it anytime and drink it. That's the real medicine. There is too much numbness today. They why when someone finds that kind of medicine, there are many people who will tell you that it's not worth anything. Even the medical doctors will fight its use. Too many people are dependent on pharmaceutical drugs today. I think we are being dragged in that direction. I guess someday we will realize again that taking drugs is not right. Sometimes I think that's the reason for all our maladies. Thank you.

Why Language is Important

Jim Henson



RAB OHPPI I-U DSBF IIR. VAGM OMVAD DSBTZU AAB
IHSMSS HJFOWHR. DHZPA HA-1 DNLU, SKS DNLU DHZ.
DHZPA IOM S-1 IIR HJFOWME JLCUR. Df OMVAD DSA
IR ID. VAGM OLCBOM OAGM IIR-4MI AD IOMMI DMIOMY
IIR-U. IOMM OHR, OM IOMOM. Df A B IR, DB OH VJSMR
TJAGI HJFOWME. VAGM OLCBOM I-4MI. JHC I-U IOMI
GOMMIOMI VAGM DB TVOMMI IIR, OMVAD TSLAWI-1 OMI
OMVAD TSMIOMI LMI GOMMIOMI OMSGTMI. HS IIR-1
I-4MI. HJFOMI HJF PZ OMSGTMI I-4MI. HJF DE-1 OMVAD
OMI. OMVAD IIR OEG-4MI DHOMMI Df SMSGTOMI
OMVAD SMSGTOMI. GWY IIR THOMMI IIR V HJFOWH. Df
TVMI TB OMVAD GCTG-1 HJFOWH RAB, DMIOMY IIR-U. OMVAD B
TSV. Z, YW Df Z VAGM OSA-1 HJFOMI DB TEH TVOMMI
IIR TVOMMI. OM IIR-1 Z Df LfOMI Df OMVAD
IIR OMVAD LIV BO. Df JHOMMI I-U LfOMI GWY. OMVAD
SIR-1 JHOMMI b LfOMI OMVAD GWY. THOMMI THMI-1
I-4MI IOM THGWY IIR JHGR Df TGOMV, DMIOMY IIR-U. Zdf

Idiomatic translation

Many years ago our elders used to tell these stories. They were looking into the future concerning what is happening today. They would always sit around on the porch and tell these stories. They would look into the sky and tell what was going to happen. And also about life. It is really going to be different and this is how it will be, they would say. And it has happened just as they have spoken. And we, who have grown up after them, we have seen it happen. It will be very different. The children are not going to want to learn our speech and the provisions and help God has given us, they are not going to want to learn about it. Everything will have been changed around for them. Because he will have to learn English. English will take over. They will be speaking that instead and when you learn something it will be through that [English]. And the Cherokee which is your speech will cease. It will go as far as losing our language, they would say. That's where we are now. We are just now beginning to realize that we need to keep speaking our language. Because of that, people are now beginning to teach through the communities. They are also teaching Cherokee again in the churches. They are being taught and revival of our language is evident. And houses will be built all around in places where you would not imagine. And the waters will have changed. The places where we fish will not longer exist, the elders would say. That's what I see today. Today, we see these things that were told to us by our elders. For that reason, I will go no further. Thank you.

Phonetic transcription

Edodv, newadinh, jigesev ansuhnido hv usvyv, Danelv kadaldidl uhna amayuhld ji'yu unja'e, dlv svnoy yv, nvy utan nahna dunohvngv amay, iga unisgasdanele, Andanv'vsge hidldlv wunitalad, anlenisge ansuhvsgv. Nvy now dunohvngv amay degvnhie no antvgisge jutan nvy. Anda'nvsge nowle ilvdlv ge'i didl anege dlvdlv now anitaldisge now ansuhvsgv. Sgi nigalstanvsge'i kohiyvdlv now. Kilo'a nvy degagonatdi, undvhne. Unisulgoje, unisga'id uniluhje dlv ta'lyv sinale unisga'id. Anihnohesgo'idv igadv jutan nvy degohosgv. Nowhnv svndodagwasd now nigad now ogenvsv. Dlv hisgiha iyv noji'v. Dohnv amayulhdi [ogohlo'ivgw] dogohlo dotsuhvsgo. Now kohl'i'v dv'ulenvhv, "woom," adihv degohosgv nvy. Nowhnv [si'e] jivyosehv, adihv edod. Oganigisv, sdikid sgwu aksga'id sgwu now gehv now. Howa gelisgv now. Hi'na gohusd nvy degohondisgv. Nowdv, dlvdlvyv, dlv sinvd yv now o'inenvsv edod. Now iga gehv. Vhnaw, agvyi oktvgan na nvy degohosgv amayulhd degvnhiv. Vhnadv oginanvsv. Ostsuhvsgodv kohiyv dayunohyvsv amayiw jigvnhio am. Doyawhnv nadvnehe. Gatohgv gawsdvnihe amay. Uyetsgv ulenvhv edod. Yo! Udvhnv. Doyawhnv o'inikehidole.

Idiomatic translation

My dad, and Newad, were fishing late at night. Down below the house by the shore, they were in a boat, sometime around midnight, there were big rocks splashing into the water, and it really scared them. When they moved the boat in this direction (gesture), they would start fishing again. Then they would hear the sound of rocks hitting the water. "Sometimes is using us as targets and throwing rocks at us," he said. They quit and arrived at home scared about two in the morning. They told about how big the rocks were that fell into the river. Then about a week later, all of us went. There were about five of us. And sure enough as we were all sitting by the shore fishing, after awhile it started again, it went "woom", as the rocks hit [the water]. And my dad said, "This is what I was telling you." We started home, and I was kind of scared. I was beginning to believe it. This thing that was dropping rocks. And then, maybe about a month later, my dad and I went back. This time during the day. Right there by the water where we first

really hot, 000. VO- i 0LYVR. Z000 00000 000 cracker,
 DFR000000. 0000000 0 Jalapeno pepper. 0000 Z0 00000. 00000
 000 0 00000 000000. 0000 D000000 0 000. 0000 0 00000
 000000 0 000. “Z000 00000 Z0, 0000000 000, i come here baby,
 000000, i 0000000 00000, 00000. iii00 00000. L000 0000000
 DB 000 0000000, 0000 0000000. 0000000 00000 0000000 000,
 000000. VO- 0000, 00000, iii, 000000 000. 000000, 000000, iii
 0000 000, D0000 0 00000. 000, 0000000, 0000000, 0 couch-i 000
 00 000000 000. Z000 0, this is the sad part. It was so sad whenever he left.
 0 00000 0 0000 V00 000 D000000 000 0, D000000000 0 0000
 0000, 00000000. 0000 00000. 000 0000, 000000. V000 P D000,
 0000. 0000? Sidney, 00000. Leon’s not in this pin, 0000000. Z0
 0000000, 00000 0000000 000000, 0000000. 000000000. 000000.
 0000000 0000 JRP 0i 00000. 00000. There goes Leon, Sidney, stop,
 000000. 0000000 000 Leon-i 000. D40 0000 00000. Hello Leon, 00000.
 Sidney-e, 000000 D0000. 000000 h0.

Phonetic transcription

Sawu yuwakd anichuj na dunisdayosdi wanedohv na galowe widanisdayohiho.
 Uhnana amayulhdi gesv unigohe ogan. Na atlivs na utan. Sginana wuniyohle na
 wunvj now sgina gusdi unigohe ahol na ogan na uwohonhtane. Uhna wunilose na
 anichuj anedohv. Nahnv usdihnv gahnehe. Sgina uninesv unihnohlv didanelv.
 Gusde gvyohise judvhnv na achuj. Dohv usd, jiyohelv. Unanhtanh inad isgwalvd
 gajisga’ih gehv. Janhtadv, hesdi yogo gusd sgina yusd skinelv’i, jiyoselv. Uh-huh,
 udvhnv. A unwanelv uwoyen. Usdi’e, adage, ogan usdi, adage vgahnehv ogan.
 Here, udvhnv. “This is yours.” “It’s mine?” jiyohelv. I don’t think so, jiyohelv. I
 don’t know anything about it, jiyohelv. “Here” udvhnvdv. Aginvelv.
 Ji’nidohosgin. Now jiyakwentanv ahnawo gvhd. Dohv now dagadvnel, nahnv vet

widajyanv. Vhna widajyakahn, jiyohelv osdinel. Ayle awvs dajiydvhistanhen aweliv. Unvdjyohlvnanelv. Nahnv na caulking yigvnd gasdayv aksgwalsv. Usdi aksgwalsv. Hla do utan. Nvwotin gahlтанv uhna agidlistanv unvd. Uganwo nijiyvhnelv. Sdi jineneho. Hlasgin yudulihe agvyi. Sdinow v nijiyvhnehv. Udihlehghnv gehe agvyi. Hahnv v test nigvnehv ahan awdelohosv, sdikidhnv udihlege. Uhnadv nowle vjiyadolijv sginana. Osd now ajvsiyego. Sdiid atlidoho na. Hnahnv animal taxi jiyotanv. Usdisgwu wes jinahla'v. Sgwu yv idihnid ijul. Now dananelohvsgv. Gajisduhvsqv na there little taxi usv nigalsd. Nahnv towel wigajiyuhlvnanehv. Nahnv ajuyvd yniwowhti dananelohvsgv. Sgin v na towel nigvneho. Nowun v now osdi now sinale yi now osd di now duntvs now gajisduhv. Dininugodv, danatlidohv hna. Nanh v wes uhdohd na litter box awvyv vhnana. Uhna wigalosg v na usdi wes. Ohniwdv a'isv na ogan. Uhna wanhdigv. Junhki'lodv. Na'e wes eli na v ogana, jiyohelv. Yeah, awohelv. Doleha sgwu, udvhnv. Now sdi'id now utvs now sgi ngajiyvhneho osd juntan gehv dananelohvsgv. Sawu yuwakd na bingo wawedolv. Nahna v shelf-i widaklesv crackers, v donh agisgvn na crackers, hi-ho crackers and na club uwas dagisgv. Hla eli na plain crackers igwu digisgi yigese. Nansgwu wes anehldisgv ugisdi. V, he thinks he's a groundhog jiyohelv. Yeah. Adiho. Gusd yahido na alsdvhlusgo agisgv na ogan. Gadiwalvdeysdihvn gusd agisgv. Gvsvhvsq. Na nigvneha, jiyohelv. Wesanh adaktosdiho. Sgwu uduliho na v agisgv. Na crumbs degohosqv hna widagisgo. Sawu yuwakd na peanut butter digelivg dejiyohelv. Hi'vsi udvhnv. Do jinelv. Hlesdhen diktanawsg yigehe. Dodvkahyose tiktol nitaktanawsgvn yig, yijiyohel, kil skikid sagwu yuwakt daktanawsgv. Sginh uwohlo. Jinelv. Anh awalsdvhlunv. Ahninuh uwohlv osdinel. Ulenvhv dv agisgv. P'adv galvgwdigv. Nahnv jalapeno pepper utsuy gese, hlanh agwanhte. Uhnadv udihlehq nuldahnel ahol uwohonhtanv. Juwoyen hi' niduwanelv. Uwohlo. Dejigahnv. Do ulsdasi, jiyohelv. Dv yagwanhtanh, udvhnv. Uwohlo. "Leon." Jiyohel. What's the matter, Leon? Dvsgwu yidaktanawsg. I wonder what happened, jiyohelv. Uhyvhjinvtkdidv, jiyohelv. Jinesv. Leon, Jiyohelv. Uhyvhjinvtkgi, udvhnv, osdinel.

Hla. Gusdigwudv ulsdas jiyohelv. Gusdidv uyhld, jiyohelv. V njiyvhnelv, na degahld waginev. Jalapeno pepper hnv adisgv. Oh, my gosh, joyohelv osdinel. Oh, my goodness, I'll bet it's really hot, udvhnv. Dohnv v widagigisv. Nowle yijinel gehv cracker, alsvsdisgv'e'a. Uwawsvgehnv na jalapeno pepper. Sgina now nadvnehv. Nansgwu wes hla yudulihe crumbs. Sgihnv adanawsdihv na wes. Sgihnv na uhvsvd uwawsvge na wes. Nowunh ulenvhv now, yagilujenh usv, v, come here baby, yijiyosel, v yindagwvnel digwoyen, daganvgogv. Vvvdv yadvne. Hlesde digaganugo ayv sgi yinjiwesel, udvhnv osdinel. Unhtadv sginana boss gehv, jiyohelv. Dohnv yuluhj, yijines, vv, yawosdv gehv. Are you sleepy, yijiyosel, vv yad dv gehv, askil hi' yinvvgv. Okay, get back into your bed, yijiyohel, na couch-i hawin didl yiwansvg gehv. Nowuhnv na, this is the sad part. It was so sad whenever he left. Na box-i na wuyan doy nahnv asaldodohd gehv na. Ahivsvgehnvsgwu na wire nusdv, galvwesdv. Uhnahnv unvgoje. Where's Leon, jiyohelv. He's out there. Where, jiyohelv. He's out there, udvhnv. Sidney, jiyohelv. Leon's not in the pin, jiyohelvdv. Now wogininvgoj, sgidvna uneghld winagiwesv, wawadlohylv. Wijiyadolijv. Jiyohvn. Hiladi yu jigehv disvhldv na'v uluhjv. Daya'isv. There goes Leon, Sidney, stop, jiyohelv. Yigvgwanht sgwu Leon-i yig. Asenh ogan yijogo, hello Leon, wigadiho. Sidney-i, dijayoli awoselv. Sgwidv niga.

Idiomatic translation

One day the boys were at target practice and there by the river they saw a groundhog running along. They shot it and when it fell to the ground, they saw it drop something from its mouth. They boys went to see what it was. It had dropped a baby groundhog. They picked it up and they brought it home. One of the boys said, "I brought you something." I said, "What is it?" And he knows that I am really afraid of snakes. Don't you be bringing me anything like that, I told him, I don't know anything about it. "Here," he said, handing it to me. But I took it. I wrapped it in some cloth. What am I going to do? I'm going to call the vet. I am going to take it to the vet. I told my husband. And then I thought, I'll raise

it myself. I prepared some milk for it. I used a caulking tube cap and a little medicine bottle to feed it. I heated the milk for it. I gave it to him a little at a time. It didn't want the milk at first. I checked the milk and it was too hot. I tested the milk on my wrist to see if it was hot. It started walking around and later it was running around. I put it into an animal taxi. I also had a kitten. They were both the same size. They began to play. I would put them in the animal taxi and cover it with a towel. When it was morning, they both would come out of the cage and run around. And I had a littler box for the kitten. When the kitten would go to use the box the groundhog would be right behind it. They both were using the box. I told my husband, "That groundhog thinks it's a cat." "It sure does," he said. When they grew up they would really play together. Once I went to bingo. I took some crackers from the shelf. And, sure enough, it ate some. It was those hi-ho crackers and club crackers. It would not eat just plain crackers. And the cat would try to eat like the ground hog. Whenever the groundhog ate something it turn the object around and around in its paws until it ate it up. "Look what it's doing," I said to my husband. And the cat would really watch the groundhog eat. The cat picked up the crumbs after the groundhog. Once time, I bought some peanut butter cracker sandwiches in a box. He said, "Hive him one." So I gave the groundhog one. And you know, the groundhog hardly ever blinked its eyes. "Your eyes are going to dry up if you don't blink," I told the groundhog. And it seemed only then it would blink its eyes. So when I gave him the peanut butter cracker sandwich, I sat by to see what it would do. I didn't know, but it had some jalapeno peppers mixed in the peanut butter. It started to eat and then suddenly, its paws went up, dropped the cracker and it just stood still. It was too hot for it. It just sat there looking straight ahead. I asked my husband, "What happened to him?" He said, "I don't know!" I called his name, "Leon!" "What's the matter, Leon?" It didn't even blink. I wonder what happened, I asked my husband. He's choking, I told him. I picked him up, and said, "Leon." He's choking, my husband said. No. Something else is wrong with him, I told him. I

picked up the bag. The bag said, “Jalapeno” on it. Oh my gosh, I told my husband. Oh my goodness, I’ll bet it’s really hot, he said. And the cat didn’t want the crumbs either. The cat would just run away. I guess it smelled the jalapeno peppers. Every time I would come home I would call it to come to me and it would come to me making whining noise. My husband said that the groundhog would do that when he called it. I told him, “He knows who the boss is.” If I asked it, “Are you sleepy?” It would just whine. I would rub its head. When I told it to get back into bed, it would go under the couch and get in its box. Now, this is the sad part. I was so sad when he left. He had a box outside on the porch. It had scooted along until it found a hold to crawl through. And that’s where he got out. I asked my husband, “Where’s Leon?” “He’s out there,” he said. I asked him, “Where?” “He’s our there,” he said. Sidney, I told him, Leon’s not in the pin. When we went outside, I looked for him and I cried. Not too long ago, I saw a groundhog come close to the bridge. There goes Leon, stop, I told Sidney. I don’t even know if it was Leon. Every time I see a groundhog I say, hello Leon. And Sidney will say to me, “He’s waving back at you.” That’s all.

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