

# Allie's Stories



## Nicknames

worked around your When I grew up in Saxton a lot of people had nicknames. In fact, almost everyone had a nickname. I don't know why, but people generally had a nickname. Some of them were Do you know what a nickname is? A nickname is a name that's sort of made up for a person that you know or know about that may be characteristic of that individual. For example, someone who's real thin might get a nickname called "Skinny", or someone that's really heavy might get a nickname of "Tubby" or "Fatty". Most nicknames are thought of as cute or sometimes a little bit unkind, but you never know where they come from. Sometimes if a young man or a young woman is chubby when they're young they'll get a nickname like "Chubby" or "Fatty", and then when they get older they become more normal in body but the nickname remains with them even though they're no longer chubby or fatty. Some of them were derogatory and some of them were pretty cute to hear about. I thought I'd share some of them with you because you'll get an idea of the kind of characters that were around my hometown that got nicknames for various reasons. Sometimes I can tell you why they got the nickname, and sometimes I can't tell you because the nickname was around so long that people forgot how it came to be.

There were a lot of people that got names of animals for nicknames. For example, there was Rabbit Reed and there was Hen Notestein, and there was Crow Mosel and Bull Moyle. There was Bee Albright and Moosey Risbind and Moose Shark and Mouse Dixon. There was Mutt Shirock. There was Husky Fessler because he had a husky voice. There was Toad Fix, and there was Froggy Kermack because he had a froggy type of voice. There was Rather(?) Willison and Squirrely Reed because Squirrely acted like he was crazy. There was Spider Mears because he had such long, skinny legs. There was Ducky Gearen because his behind stuck out like a duck. There was Eagle Beak Williams who had a great big nose like an eagle's beak, and there was Canary Legs Benner who had very skinny legs. There was Do Do Seiger and Doodlebug Davis. Buggy Weaver, we all thought he was crazy so we called him Buggy. And there was a guy around town who's name I don't remember, but we called him Fleas, and he had a brother named Ringneck. Then there was Red Rooster Heil and Weasel Williams. All of them were animals or something like that. Isn't that interesting?

And then some nicknames had a characteristic of maybe something that you would eat or chew,

and you could call them something tasty. For example, there was Honey Speck and there was Cracker Cooper. There was Peaches Elder and Candy Moore. There was Punch Mangel and Jellyroll Huff, and Bubblegum Rogers because she always chewed bubblegum and cracked it. There was Beanbag Seager. There was Beany Reed and Eggy Clapper. Eggy was short for his name, Edgar. There was Hammy Steak and Hammy Eaton. (I think one of their real name was Hamilton.) Of course, you've heard me talk about Meatball Miller because when he was a boy he was a chubby little thing like a meatball. There was Cookie Reed and Cheesy Taylor. There was Pear-Shaped Garner and there was Jelly Bean Reed. Taffy Flenner and Sweet Abbott round out the ones that I remember. But all of those people had names that had something to do with taste or food.

Now some people, because of their physical characteristics, got a nickname. For example, there was Patch Eye Conley because he had had an eye injury and he wore a patch for a long time. There was a guy called Bad Eye Garner who had lost an eye and had a glass eye. There was Lady Fingers Reed. Now Lady Fingers Reed was a man who worked in his wife's beauty parlor and helped curl women's hair, and of course that was not seen as a masculine occupation so the men nicknamed him Lady Finger. There was Hose Nose Hollingshead. Not Hose Nose had a big nose, and that's why he got that nickname. There was Hairy Legs Right and there was Thousand Legger Dunkle, Saucer Head Stewart, and Bebe Eyes Guillard. Bebe Eyes had two real, small, dark eyes that looked like bee bees in his head. And then there was Teeth Brendle and Hair Reed, and Gut Reed and Hippy Thompson. All of them had been named after parts of the body. Strange what nicknames people got when I was a little boy.

Then there was a series of names that had something to do with like the size of people. Remember I said about Fat and Skinny. There was Fat Bear and there was Chubby Donaldson. There was Slim Mozle and Skinny Burkett. There was Short Weaver, Chubby Reed, Big Pants Johnson, Teeny Fessler, Pee Wee Williams, and Boney Rhoads. Now Boney Rhoads was a big fat man. Maybe when he was a boy he was skinny and boney, but when I knew him he was a great big heavy guy, so his nickname never really went with the way I saw him. But that's the nicknames they had. Some of them were named after relatives. For example, there was Pappy Fields and there was Mother Eaton. There was Sis Mears and Sissy Johnson. There was Unc Elder, Sister Shontz, there was Junior Henkle, and someone got the name Big Baby but I don't remember who that was. Additionally, there were two Enyeart brothers down in Entriken called Big Brother Enyeart and Little Brother

Enyeart. I never really knew what their right names were.

Then at times we think about the types of characters that rood the range. There was Cowboy Putt, there was Buck Shot Croy. There was Shotgun Croy and Shotgun Weaver and Bucky Corrothers. There was Gun Miller, Nimrod Gutridge, Trooper Brumbaugh, and Duke McGackin, all of which you might think were cowboys or range riders or something like that. Some of the people got nicknames that were colorful. For example, there was Red Cunningham who had red hair. There was Greenie Mountain who always seemed to wear green clothes. There was Brownie Worsing who was dark complected. There was Whitey Figart who had very, very light blonde hair. There was Red Dick McClain who had red hair, and he had a cousin named White Dick Heaton who was blonde. And then there was Black Out Miller. Now we called Black Out Miller by that nickname because when he was in school with Allie Black Out, or Bill Miller was his right name, would get into trouble with the teachers, and the teachers would paddle his behind. And Black Out wore two or three pair of dirty pants. And whenever the teachers paddled the back of his pants the dust would fly off his clothes and make like a cloud. And he got the name Black Out Miller because every time he got in trouble in school and got paddled there was always a dirty cloud of dust that came out of these old clothes he wore.

Now some of these other nicknames I'm gonna give ya I'll try to tell you where we got them, but boy in a lot of cases I don't know. There was Happy Long, and Happy was sort of a happy guy. When he walked down the street he said hello to everybody. There was Chappy Barton. Now he was a dentist and so he teeth and gums, and I guess that's where he got the name Chappy. There was Harv Elder, Hoppy Hopkins, and Hoggy Chamberlain. When Hoggy was a boy he was a pretty porky-looking guy. He looked like a little pig, so I guess that's where he got the name Hoggy. Horny Reed I never knew his nickname, where it came from. There was Chippy Eichelberger and Chippy Flegel, and they got their names I guess because they were considered a chip off the old block, meaning they looked a lot like their daddy. There was Skippy Shark. There was Sleepy Morningstar. Now Sleepy fell asleep in school a lot, and that's why he got the nickname Sleepy. There was Creepy Reinard because everything Creepy did was like a sneak or a creep. He had a brother we called Misery because Misery was always unhappy.

There was Itchy Miller and Itchy Moore. There was Speedy Mountain. He got the name Speedy

because he was a paper boy and he delivered the papers so slowly that all his customers called him Speedy in ridicule. My grandmother had a sister that had a nickname behind her back as Shaky Shannon, and she had a condition that made her head shake left and right, left and right, left and right all the time—it was like a palsy. It wasn't a very nice nickname, but behind her back we called her Shaky Shannon. There was Windy Lynn because he talked a lot. There was Wimpy Reed. There was Pumpy Brumbaugh and Nuggy Brown. There was Meanie Reed and Baldy Putt. Now Baldy Putt had no hair, so it was easy to call him Baldy. There was Barney Johnson and Barmy Cartright, Boobie Hoover, Toddy Hooper, Lottie Bar, Lizzy Villa. Now Lizzy is a nickname for Elizabeth. There was Hooker Taylor and Hooker Long, and Mung Dung Heil, too.

My nickname when I was a boy was Lucky because I did odd jobs and chores for people, and that was a lucky's job. There was Macky Stoller and Macky McCahan. There was Racky that we called Coke Buzzick, but we called him Racky for some reason. And then there was a Hacky Weaver. And there was a guy named Sacky and I can't think of his last name. There was Keggy Keifer. There was Corky Hoffman. There was a Clutchy Reinard who drove a cab and he was always riding his foot on the clutch. There was Clancy Shark and Coxy Benner. Glassie Moyle got his name because he wore eyeglasses that were very thick and very large. There was Jocky Miller and Millie Gribble, and Alcky Elder and Skimpy Gates. There was Muck Dolt and Miss Easter and Boodily Putt and Chuckles Brown. There was Snottie Eidolph, and isn't that an awful name? And Snookie Scherizzie. Hubbie Green and Gabby Dolt, Smokey Weaver and Nute Black, and Tillie Wilson and Oggie Oakes.

When I told you the story about the football game up on the Knob, I already mentioned Big Jim Ritchie and why he got his name. There were another couple Ritchie's in town. There was Big Bill Ritchie and Big Bill Bickerson. And then there was another Bill Ritchie who had a brother Jim, and they called him Twin Bill because they were twins. They'd say, "There goes Twin Bill Ritchie or Twin Jim Ritchie" to separate the two. There was Radio Bill Putt. Bill Putt his car around town, and whenever he'd get out he'd leave the radio blaring out the window, so we called him Radio Bill Putt. There was Big Ed Dixon. Big Mike Yukoski, he was a coal miner and he was a big, big man. There was Suitcase Krouse, but I never knew why they called him that.

Hat Rack Hatfield got his name I guess because the first part of his name started with a hat. There was Charger Carbury and Governor Slope, Chill Wills and Chow Choochie, Chow Chow Williams and La La Reed, Poncho Villa and Piker Reed, Poker Weaver and Pubb Malant, Puss Williams and Putt Heims. Then there was Slat Bashore and Mind Tie Tinley. Sunset Brown and Clear Water McNight lived up in the Defiance area. One guy went to school with me and we called him Camefire Reed. And there was Farmer Black and Sickle Johnson. Sickle walked sort of hunched over like a sickle would if it was walking.

Another one I think of is Saphire Heinish Movie Money Singer, and then out at Puttstown there was Yickity-Yack Miller and Doodaddle Johnson. Mike Enyeart when he was a boy wore pajamas that had a patch in the back so that he could go to the bathroom, and whenever he was done going to the bathroom he'd ask his mother to "chain me up", meaning button me up, so Chainy became his nickname. There was Butt Route Reed and Pootang Shay, Fireball Trese and Ninner Reed, Elmira Abbott and Dagmire Defabaugh. Geranium Reese had a long neck. There was the hunky woman who was married to Patch Eye Conley. And Beer Barrell Hockenberry was shaped like a beer barrell. Gravel Gertie was not very complimentary of Carol Leiphart.

There was Dina Smith and Oscar Shauntz, Jagger LaSalle and Jigger Shannon, Jigs Bailey and Jube Effner. There was Rip Reed and Rip Donaldson, and Reet Moore. I think her real name was Marguarette. There was Abe White and Abe Weaverman, and Lez Bailey and Meb Manley, Chow Fisher, and there was some guy named Ditcher, and there was a guy around town called Dude Miller. Slow Seitz and Fritz Clapper, Waldow Slick's real name was Walter, and I guess that's where they got the Waldow. There was Zero Zeipher, and when you grow up and learn what the name Zeipher means it means Zero, so I guess that's where that nickname came from. Zombie Miller looked like a Zombie.

There was Nankey Workman, and she became my wife. Hotel Wambaugh and Sheeky Ross. Sheeky Ross was married to your Aunt Pauline. I don't know why them called him Sheeky. There was Monk Shark and Monk Moreland and Monk Corey. There was Punk Stapleton and Pex Hoover. There was Dutch Lynn and Dutch Baughman. There was Clutch Eichelberger, and that was me because I admired a football player known as "The Clutch" when I was a kid.

There was Cloud Neuter and Goof Taylor. Your Aunt Betty Ruth Workman was called Gow because she couldn't pronounce the word cow. There was Nook Gioresto and Took Hoffman.

There was Coot McIntyre and Coot Eichelberger. There was Hoot Sipes and Scoots Smith and Snooks Heeton and Smokes Heaton and Scat Broombaugh and Hoss Gioresto. He got Hoss because his real name was Charles, and I guess as a kid they called him Charlie Hoss. There was Hump McGee and Hucks Smith and Tank Livingston. And then there was a guy named Dee Carvy and a lady named Dink Kelly, and a guy I used to know named Dubs Hughes, and there was Dixie Dixon. Now that's an easy one to figure out. We called Roger Garner Shadrack for awhile. Gary Willison was known as "The Lid". I had a football coach in high school we called Whip Witowski because he was so difficult to work with. Then there was Noon Baughman. There was Coons Twin and Coon Baughman, who was Noon's twin, and Moon Mullens and BT Weaver and BO Carmack. There was Bo Huff and BoBo Huff. There was Boo Hatfield and Babe Dixon. There was Babs Hastings and Bibs Hastings. They were brothers. There was Biz Cypher, and there was Bud Hess and Uncle Jim Worthstead, he was called Bud Mort. There was Buddy Hatfield and Buddy Dixon and Buster Peck and Boozer Putt. And I told you once about Burma Williams. And then there was Bounce Huff and Bubb Hennessey. There were really two Bubb Hennesseys because they were twin brothers named Don and Vaughn, but because no one could tell Don from Vaughn, everyone called the Hennessey boys the Bubbs twins. If you saw one of them down the street you said, "Hi, Bubb," and he would acknowledge that because you were sure whether it was Don or Vaughn.