

Some Memorable Sayings of Dale Gardner

My father had a number of favorite sayings. As I typed his diaries, one after another would emerge from my memories. Some were frequent statements (especially number 1 below), some were sung (numbers 2 and 10 below), some were jokes (number 3), some were descriptors (4 and 6), and some were just fun to say (3 and 5). I doubt that any were truly original with him; he just liked them and enjoyed saying or singing them. I wish I could remember more – Stan Gardner.

1. *That's close enough for government work.*

Dale worked for the federal government for 33 years. Many of those years, in the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, he was the Gauger-In-Charge at Grain Processing Corporation, the alcohol bottling plant in Muscatine, Iowa; and at Ed Phillips & Sons, another bottling plant in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In that capacity, he was responsible for measuring and ensuring the accuracy of measurements for weights and strengths (amount of alcohol) of liquids in containers ranging from railroad tank cars to individual bottles. This job required great precision, so it was with a twinkle in his eye and tongue firmly planted in his cheek that he would make that statement.

2. *Peanut sittin' on a railroad track, His heart was all a-flutter, Train came roarin' round the bend, Toot! Toot! Peanut butter.*

(Sung.)

3. *How do you spell Mississippi?*

em - eye - crooked letter - crooked letter - eye - crooked letter - crooked letter - eye - humpback - humpback - eye.

4. *He's just a shiftless skunk.*

A lazy good-for-nothing.

5. *Perka-deedle-dydle-um-tweet-tweet.*

I have no idea what this meant, or how to spell it properly. A Google search said it was “some weird line from a weird song that my dad knew,” but gave no information about the song.

6. *He's just full of Pizzeringtum.*

An online search turned up: the quintessence of pep; the will to succeed; vim, energy, ambition; get up and go (also “Spizerinctum”).

7. *That looks like two cats fighting in a gunny sack.*

He would use this phrase to describe the backside walking away of a woman of a certain body shape.

8. *All the cars have out-of-state license plates.*

He would say this, looking around, whenever he was out of his own state.

9. One of Dale's favorite poems, which he memorized and would sometimes quote:

*'Twas midnight on the ocean,
Not a streetcar was in sight,
The sun was shining brightly
For it rained all day that night.*

*'Twas a summer's day in winter
The rain was snowing fast,
As a barefoot girl with shoes on,
Stood sitting on the grass.*

*'Twas evening and the rising sun
Was setting in the west;
And all the fishes in the trees
Were cuddled in their nests.*

*The rain was pouring down,
The sun was shining bright,
And everything that you could see
Was hidden out of sight.*

*The organ pealed potatoes,
Lard was rendered by the choir;
When the sexton wrang the dishrag
Someone set the church on fire.*

*"Holy smoke!" the preacher shouted,
As he madly tore his hair.
Now his head resembles Heaven,
'Cause there is no parting there.*

10. Finally, "My Blue Heaven," my parents' favorite song which he loved to sing to her:

*Day is ending, birds are wending
Back to the shelter of
Each little nest they love*

*Nightshades falling, lovers calling
What makes the World go round
Nothing but love*

*When whippoorwills call
And evening is nigh
I hurry to my Blue Heaven*

*I turn to the right
A little white light
Will lead you to my Blue Heaven*

*A smiling face, a fireplace, a cozy room
A little nest that nestles where roses bloom*

*Just Molly and me
And baby makes three
We're happy in my Blue Heaven*

(Orchestral Break)

*A smiling face, a fireplace, a cozy room
A little nest that nestles where roses bloom*

*Just Molly and me
And baby makes three
We're happy in my Blue Heaven*

(Whistling)

*A smiling face, a fireplace, a cozy room
A little nest that nestles where roses bloom*

*Just Molly and me
And baby makes three
We hurry to my Blue Heaven*

MY BLUE HEAVEN

Written by Walter Donaldson / George Whiting

Recorded by Gene Austin - 1927

Paul Whiteman & His Orch. (vocal: Charles Gaylord, Austin Young, Al Rinker, Bing Crosby, Jack Fulton) - 1927

Nick Lucas - 1928

Don Voorhees & His Orch. (vocal: Lewis James) - 1928

Seeger Ellis & His Orch. - 1928

Sammy Kaye & His Orch. (vocal: Jimmy Brown) - 1939

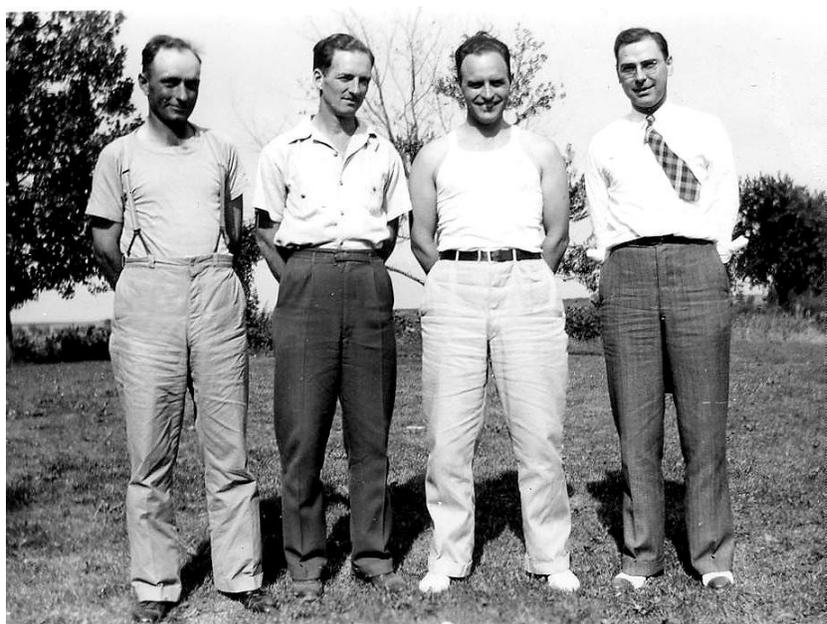
Frank Sinatra - 1950 & 1960

Also recorded by: Ray Anthony; Boston Pops Orch.; Freddy Cannon; Benny Carter; Casa Loma Orch.; Rosemary Clooney; The Platters; Nat King Cole; Ken Colyer; Harry Connick Jr.; Jimmie Lunceford; Scatman Crothers; Billy Daniels; Doris Day; Buddy De Franco; Marlene Dietrich; Fats Domino; Walter Donaldson; Eddy Duchin; Duane Eddy; Fabian; Gracie Fields; Eddie Fisher; The Four Lads; Jane Froman; Erroll Garner; Benny Goodman; Stephane Grappelli; Maxine Sullivan; Dick Haymes; Ted Heath; Earl Hines; Red Norvo; Lena Horne; Frank Ifield; Al Jolson; Bert Kaempfert; Gene Krupa; Gertrude Lawrence; Jerry Lee Lewis; Enoch Light; Cliff Richard; Glenn Miller; Rose Murphy; Rick Nelson; Sandy Nelson; Art Tatum; Woody Herman; Marty Robbins; Artie Shaw; Whispering Jack Smith; Stuff Smith; Nino Tempo; Mary Lou Williams; ... and many others.

Some favorite photos from Dale's collection:



Helen and Dale - about 1931



Lloyd Gardner, Don Schaffer, Dale Gardner, Gene Yates - 1940



Dalene, Helen, Stanley, Dale - 1945



Dale, Dalene, Helen, Stanley - 1958



Dale and Helen - 1968



Helen and Dale - 1974



Dale and Helen's 50th anniversary - 1982



Dale and Helen's 60th anniversary - 1992