

Dickie Harris

Dickie Harris

A collection of stories told around the campfire

As told by
Curtis Meinert

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Preface

Dickie Harris, Roger, Butch Casper, and Rags McMuffin are a few of the people you will meet in these stories. They are creations that evolved over campfires on family outings and some at home over the years.

I do not know when the story telling "tradition" started, but no doubt it emerged from the need to "entertain" kids in transition to bedtime.

Indeed, if you study the art of story telling you learn that it headed south when light came indoors. As night lighting increased, the need for storytelling decreased and disappeared once TV showed up. There is nothing but grunting when the TV is on and conversation is in three second slices.

Most of the requests for stories came when I was ready for bed, half asleep myself. If anyone was paying attention, they would have noted numerous inconsistencies and a fair amount of "backfilling" as I went along. But nobody seemed to mind. At least nobody let on that they cared.

As we transited from one camping trip to another I discovered that the kids were asking about Dickie Harris and wanted to know what happened after the last tale. Slowly other characters appeared without any rhyme or reason. But so what? Life itself is a random walk through time.

Eventually, I took to recording the stories and Jill and MeMa typed them for import into a word processor. The rest is "history".

Dad, the story teller
December 2006