

Periscope.

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Carl Giles at work

In his introduction to the 2005 edition of the collected cartoons of the previous year by Carl Giles, which appeared in either the Daily or the Sunday Express newspaper, Alan Titchmarsh expresses his admiration for the cartoonist with a genius for depicting the exact point which makes an event so memorable.

Even today, Giles brings back at least the ghost of past events. I have chosen his gentle critique of a young Wimbledon Brat. You know who!

The Giles Annual appeared in my father's Christmas stocking every year when I was a nipper and after he had read it from cover to cover I would settle down with it in front of a roaring fire. I suppose I would have been ten or eleven when I really began to appreciate the sharp topicality of Giles's humour but long before that I had learned to love his drawings because I knew two of his characters 'intimately'.

Grandma was just like my grandma and Vera was a dead ringer for my Auntie Alice. Like Giles's cartoon characters they lived - and bickered - together in a tiny terrace house. I can only think that Giles must have bumped into my relatives in their home town of Ilkley, Yorkshire at some point - how else could he have captured them so well?

Oh and then there was 'Chalky' the schoolmaster who I'm convinced was modelled on our local verger. I still re-

member every detail in Giles's cartoons. One in particular depicted a farmer at the Smithfield Show trying to board an overflowing double-decker bus at the end of the day. 'I'll have to get on', he explained to the conductor. 'Me Aberdeen Angus be gorn upstairs'. Why that particular one should remain lodged in my mind. I've no idea except that it struck me as being very funny.

Giles's cartoons are timeless - even when they portray historic events. Now I'm not sure if that's a contradiction but what I do know is that they still make me smile and all these years later I remain lost in admiration for the man's mastery of his craft.

Ah! The Good old Days!



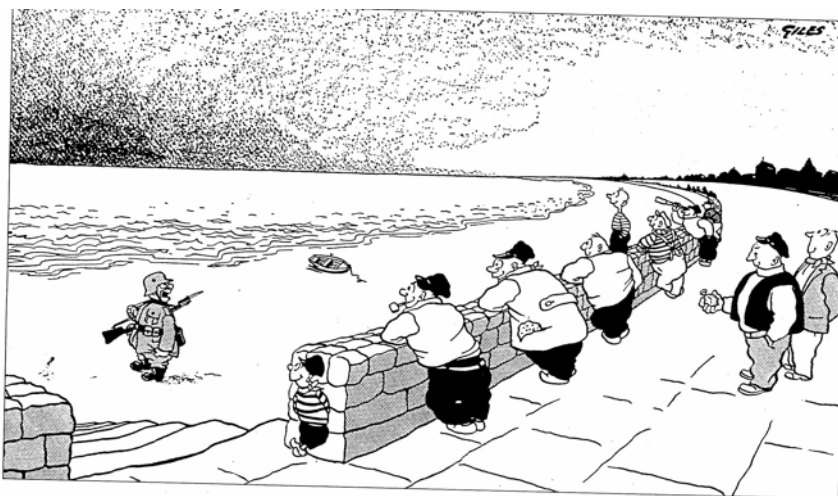
"I'm not prepared to discuss the merits of bringing back hanging for umpires and linesmen Mr. McEnroe"

Sunday Express, June 26th. 1983

Carl Giles was born in Islington, north London, on 29 September 1916. His father, Albert Giles, was a tobacconist, but his mother was the daughter of a Norfolk farmer and he spent his school holidays in East Anglia. Giles attended Barnsbury Park School – where he was taught by the severe, skeletal Mr Chalk who later featured in his cartoons – but had no formal art training. As Giles later acknowledged, the closest he came to art training was the encouragement of Sir Alfred Munnings, President of the Royal Academy, to whom his uncle was butler.

Leaving school aged fourteen, Giles worked as an office boy for a Wardour Street film company, but then progressed to becoming a junior animator on cartoons. He moved to Elstree, where from 1935 he worked for Alexander Korda, and was one of the principal animators on the first full-length British colour cartoon film with sound, *The Fox Hunt*. In 1943 Giles moved to Ipswich, where he set up a studio. A motor-cycle accident had left him blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, so he was rejected for war service, but during the war he made cartoon films for the Ministry of Information, including *One Pair of Nostrils* for the Ministry of Health, and, in 1944, *The Grenade*.

Throughout the war, Carl found himself at the sharp end, often underneath the bombs and, in Europe, frequently in range of the bullets. Thus his characters were the bus drivers and cabbies of London, the florid-



The caption read; “Well–what are YOU waiting for?” delivered by the diminutive German sentry, to a group of Dutch peasants, one of whom is consulting his watch. I wonder what Giles knew at the time. It is to be noted that this cartoon appeared in the *Daily Express* on April 19th. 1944, seven weeks before the invasion!

–faced squires who were forced to accommodate evacuee children in their stately piles, the nurses and policemen, the station masters, the air raid wardens, the sergeant majors and buffoonish brigadiers, cheeky-featured tommies, German soldiers and, most famous of all, perhaps, the GIs.

Carl saw the conflict under the Blitz and also, as official war artist for the *Daily Express*, in many parts of Europe. He was flown into Arnhem with the Coldstream Guards and sat drawing for his office amidst the blaze, dust and rubble of battle.

A cartoon of that time shows him, a ludicrously unmilitary figure in ill-fitting battle tunic with the word 'press' drawn on his bottom

After the war, Giles found that his stock characters, the British Tommy, German soldiers and their leaders, and above all, the American G.I.'S had all gone. Giles, the great social cartoonist, found a new set of often doubtful characters. The first recognisable appearance of the Giles Family was in the *Sunday Express* on 5 August 1945. From then on, they were shown reacting to the post-war difficulties of an exhausted cash strapped war-torn Britain. Despite all the different family members young and old, it was to be Grandma who not only became the notional head of the 'Giles Family' but easily the most memorable and infamous character. Giles enjoyed drawing the curmudgeon-like figure, giving her his own surname, and it is

from 'Grandma Giles' that we know the name of the whole family. He liked to claim that she was an amalgam of both his grandmothers, claiming she “represents both my grandmas, who were strictly the bull's-eyes-and-embrocation variety.” However, the cartoon 'Grandma Giles' was absolutely nothing like them. In fact, the cartoon character Grandma was an old battle-axe from the start, very much like Giles himself, both in temperament and in appearance. In later years, Grandma became, in essence, Giles in drag.



Not Getting a Good Night?

To help you wake up feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, Tom Cook, houseplant buyer at British Garden Centres reveals which ones to bag for your bedroom.

1. Lavender

Lavender is widely recognised as an effective natural remedy for promoting relaxation, and reducing stress and anxiety levels...“The sweet yet refreshing aroma of lavender can create a calming and soothing atmosphere in your bedroom, which can help you sleep better,” highlights Cook.

“The scent has been shown to slow down the heart rate, lower blood pressure, and reduce overall stress levels, making it an excellent choice for those who struggle with sleep issues or anxiety.”



2. Aloe vera

Aloe vera is an excellent choice for improving indoor air quality while you sleep, as it releases oxygen at night...“Not only does it help to create a more refreshing sleeping environment, it also has numerous other benefits,” notes Cook. “The gel inside the leaves of aloe vera is rich in nutrients and has been used for centuries for its medicinal properties. “It contains vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that can help to soothe and heal the skin, while its cooling properties can help you relax and unwind after a long day.”

3. Snake Plant

If you're someone who loves plants but doesn't have the time or energy to take care of them regularly, the snake plant might be the perfect choice for you...“This low-maintenance plant is known for its ability to thrive in low-light conditions, making it an ideal option for those who don't have access to a lot of sunlight,” suggests Cook. “One of the best things about the snake plant is it can filter out harmful toxins from the air, such as formaldehyde, benzene, and xylene.” He continues. “This makes it an excellent choice for improving the air quality in your home or office. “Additionally, the snake plant is known to produce oxygen at night, which can help you get a better night's sleep by improving the air quality in your bedroom.”



4. Jasmine



Jasmine's delicate fragrance has been known for its medicinal properties for centuries...“According to research, the aroma of jasmine can help lower stress levels and promote relaxation, making it a popular choice for aromatherapy and sleep aids,” says Cook. “It's believed to stimulate the production of certain neurotransmitters in the brain, such as serotonin, which regulates mood and has a calming effect on the nervous system,” he explains. “This can help reduce anxiety and promote a sense of well-being, making it easier to fall asleep and enjoy a restful night's sleep.”

5. Peace Lily

Having a Peace Lily in your home can do more than just look good...

“This beautiful plant has air-purifying qualities, making it an ideal addition to your bedroom or any other indoor space,” says Cook. “The Peace Lily is known to remove toxins such as formaldehyde and benzene from the air, which can be harmful to your health if present in high concentrations.”

By having a Peace Lily nearby, he says you can breathe easier and enjoy a healthier indoor environment. “Additionally, the plant's lush green leaves and delicate white flowers create a peaceful and serene ambience, making it ideal for promoting better sleep and relaxation.

“It's a low-maintenance and beneficial addition that will enhance your living space in more ways than one,” adds Cook.



Emily Jane Brontë was an English novelist and poet who is best known for her only novel, *Wuthering Heights*, now considered a classic of English literature.

THE NIGHT WIND

By Emily Brontë.

In summer's mellow midnight,
A cloudless moon shone through
Our open parlour window,
And rose-trees wet with dew.

I sat in silent musing;
The soft wind waved my hair;
It told me heaven was glorious,
And sleeping earth was fair.

I needed not its breathing
To bring such thoughts to me;
But still it whispered lowly,
How dark the woods will be!

"The thick leaves in my murmur
Are rustling like a dream,
And all their myriad voices
Instinct with spirit seem."

I said, "Go, gentle singer,
Thy wooing voice is kind:
But do not think its music
Has power to reach my mind.



"Play with the scented flower,
The young tree's supple bough,
And leave my human feelings
In their own course to flow."

The wanderer would not heed me;
Its kiss grew warmer still.
"O come!" it sighed so sweetly;
"I'll win thee 'gainst thy will.

"Were we not friends from childhood?
Have I not loved thee long?
As long as thou, the solemn night,
Whose silence wakes my song.

"And when thy heart is resting
Beneath the church-aisle stone,
I shall have time for mourning,
And *thou* for being alone."

Thought for the Day?

Belinda was a great cook and a meticulous keeper of household affairs, but she had a very short fuse and something of a jaundiced eye, when it came to Harold, her help-meet, born to love, honour and obey. He allowed his mind, when not under the control of his lady wife, to wonder if this was quite the deal he had got into all those years ago.

You may well have heard of apoplexy, that furious anger brought on by almost anything. On the occasion of her final demonstration of this rage, Harold had yet again forgotten to bring just the right sort of yogurt for her delicate palate. And thus it was, she departed this life quite dramatically and almost fortissimo.

In due course (for you know what admin is these days, even up there!) She appeared before the Pearly Gates, rang the bell and waited impatiently to be attended to. The Duty Angel had to finish his morning chalice of nectar in a hurry and had indigestion for the rest of the day.

"*What do you want?*" He asked.

"*To come in, of course!*" She replied.

"*You have to answer a question before you are allowed in. So you must spell a word you never used down below. You only have one go at it!*"

"*Well, get on with it.*"

"*Spell LOVE!*"

After some hesitation she got it right and was allowed in.

Many happy years later Harold also stood before the Pearly Gates. The Duty Angel, having a somewhat human sense of humour, found Belinda on her usual kitchen duty and suggested that she might like to do the interview, in the hope that she might have improved during her years there.

She was delighted to have such a congenial task at long last.

"*What d'yo want,?*" She asked sweetly.

"*I want to come in, please Belinda.*"

"*You got to pass a test first, dear heart!*"

Somewhat surprised by the tone of her warm greeting, Harold smiled, much as he had on the day of her funeral.

"*I'm ready!*" He replied. "*What is the test?*"

"*You have to spell a word. You only get one go at it.*"

"*I'm ready. What is the word, please Belinda?*"

"**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**" she replied with an undisguised delight.

Quiz Time

1. With what element does Hydrogen combine so we get water from the tap?
2. Which wife survived Henry VIII?
3. Where in the human body do you find cones and rods?
4. Which major English financial institution was founded in 1694?
5. What was the name of the wonkiest pub in Britain which burnt down in 2023?
6. In which West Midlands town had it been?
7. Who played Phileas Fogg in the film 'Around the World in 80 Days'?
8. What is the name of the rubber disc used in Ice Hockey?
9. What is a male swan called?
10. From which county did the Tolpuddle Martyrs originate?
11. Which plant, at approx. 38 centimetres a day is said to be the quickest growing?
12. What is the name of the pub featuring in Radio 4's 'The Archers'?
13. To which geometric figure does Pythagoras's Theorem apply?
14. Meadowhall shopping centre is near which large Northern city?
15. Which National Park had its name changed to Bannau Brycheiniog in 2023?
16. In May 2023 Belgium's Luca Breckel won which World Title?
17. Which common acid is found in the human stomach?
18. In 2023, which bird topped the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch?
19. Which is the largest planet in our solar system?
20. What colour is Kermit the Frog?



I'm sorry Madam. This was made by Old Nick's High Temperature Furnace Firm. We get a lot of his fakes brought in.'



The criminal mind is ever alive to a new opportunity to rob the unwary. West Mercia Police send out these warnings for general interest and to sharpen our awareness of what trends to notice.

Several independent and corporate shops/businesses reported 2 males entering their store, seeking to purchase large quantities of cigarettes and vapes, between £600-2000. The purchases were attempted to be paid on card.

The concerns here, are that nationally there appears to be an increase in what is known as 'Chargeback Fraud'. Chargeback Fraud occurs when a consumer makes a purchase, often online with their bank card and then requests a chargeback from the issuing bank after raising a dispute over receiving the purchased goods or service, knowing that they are lying to the bank.

In addition, questions have to be asked as to the legitimacy of the bank card they are using, the rightful owner and their intentions for buying such a large quantity of products. If they seek to pay in cash, shop keepers should make sure to check the bank notes to make sure they are not fake.

The First Theatrical Knight

HENRY IRVING was knighted in 1895, the first actor to be so honoured. Thus the stage after a long and vagrant career received social elevation, and acting has never been the same since, Bernard Shaw has done his best to diminish Irving's stature, but, for all his neglect of Ibsen and the new theatre of the nineties, Irving's potency as actor and personality survives the years. This curious photograph of him as Charles I was taken soon after he became famous in *The Bells*. It is a wonder he did not attack and destroy it with a table-knife, as he did Sargent's portrait of him.

As a master of *mise-en-scène* he was at the forefront in the development of gaslight for his spectacular productions of Shakespeare and Romantic Melodrama at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, London between 1871 and 1902 and was sole manager of that theatre from 1878 to 1899. During this period and until 1902 Ellen Terry was his leading lady.

In 1904 the interior of Irving's theatre had to be demolished because it did not comply with new safety regulations. The new auditorium was designed by Bertie Crewe. In 1996 Apollo Leisure Group refurbished and re-opened Crewe's Lyceum. Irving invited leading figures of the cultural world to contribute to his productions. These included the artists Telbin, Tadema and Burne-Jones, composers German, Mackenzie, Sullivan and Stanford and authors Pinero, Tennyson, Albery, Sardou and Conan Doyle.

He made eight major tours across North America between 1883 and 1904, setting new standards in visual presentations and ensemble playing. He regularly took his productions to the major cities in the UK. In 1904 Irving started on a series of Farewell Tours with plans to retire in 1906, after celebrating fifty years on the stage. His sudden death on October 13th 1905 shocked and saddened the nation.

His was the age of Victorian values, which saw the exaltation of wealth in a new industrial society. It was an age that threw up a new middle class thirsting for knowledge and cultural experience. On these premises was founded a growing demand for theatre. The quality of Irving's performances and his stage management skills helped to feed and promote these attitudes. Irving became financially successful, socially popular and internationally famous. It was the essayist and critic Sir Max Beerbohm that dubbed him THE KNIGHT FROM NOWHERE a title he thought appropriate for an only son of a travelling salesman called Brodribb, who as Henry Irving had a personality that outshone his acting but never his 'Art'.



Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth, by John Singer Sargent, 1889

There are heroes aplenty and men known to fame
In the troops that were led by the Czar;
But the bravest of these was a man by the name
Of Ivan Skavinsky Skivar.

He could imitate Irving, play poker and pool
And perform on the Spanish Guitar.
In fact, quite the cream of the Muscovite team
Was Ivan Skavinsky Skivar.

This extract comes from a song written in 1877 by Percy French a Cambridge student. It became very popular on the Music Halls. Irving here is the subject of gentle mockery, being associated with poker and pool together with a Spanish guitar, all suggestive of a raffish way of life. Not quite the gentleman, therefore.

The Desiderata, written by Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.
As far as possible, without surrender,
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.
If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.
Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.
Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labours and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.
With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.



From the Editor: I read this well-known poem by the American Poet, Max Ehrmann, who wrote it in 1927, at the funeral of my much-loved cousin, Ruth McKeown. She wrote several items for this magazine and provided me with a number of pictures, cartoons and ideas, which eventually appeared here.

She also undertook the distribution of many issues and was above all a supporter from very early on in its life. As I found at the funeral, she had a wide and disparate number of friends. She will be missed by many people.

The photo is a reminder of Ruth's holidays with Jim, her husband, to Malta, an island which she loved.

Max Ehrmann (1872-1945) was a scholar and poet, born in America on September 26, 1872. He was the youngest of five children of German immigrants. He studied law and philosophy at Harvard University.

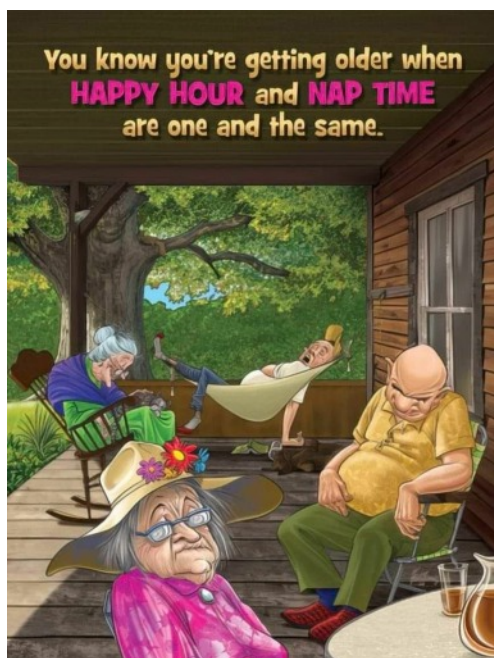


After 10 years in the business world, Ehrmann retired so he could devote

all his time to literary work. Toward the end of his life, during an interview, he told a writer, "At Havard, I contracted a disease which I have never shaken off. The disease was Idealism. Because of it I did the thing in life I wanted to do—writing."

Quiz Solution.

1. Oxygen.
2. Catherine Parr.
3. The eye.
4. The Bank of England.
7. David Niven.
8. Puck.
9. A cob.
10. Dorset.
11. Bamboo.
12. The Bull.
13. Right angle Triangle.
14. Sheffield.
15. The Brecon Beacons.
16. World Snooker Champion.
17. Hydrochloric acid.
18. (House) sparrow.
19. Jupiter.
20. Green.



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Information about sources not acknowledged is readily available.
Periscope may be copied and forwarded at no cost. Items and articles are always welcomed.

TALCOORN

William McGonagall, possibly the world's worst poet, even though challenged by today's rhymesters, ends his famous account of the Tay Bridge Disaster of 1879, thus:—

**"Oh! Ill-fated bridge of the silv'ry Tay,
I now must conclude my lay
By telling the world fearlessly without the least dismay,
That your central girders would not have given way,
At least many sensible men do say,
Had they been supported on each side with buttresses
At least many sensible men confesses,
For the stronger we our houses do build,
The less chance we have of being killed."**

But there was much more to our hero than mere glimpses in limpid (limping?) verse of notable events. Here is his account of his first venture upon the Stage. He chose that simple little tale, 'Macbeth' to launch himself upon the public. Sadly, Ellen Terry was not available.

His first stage appearance was at Mr Giles's Theatre in Dundee. Realizing what a talent McGonagall had, Mr Giles said that he could only appear if a large sum of money was paid to the theatre in cash before the performance. McGonagall said he considered this 'rather hard', but his fellow workers at the Seafield Handloom Works in Dundee had a whip round. They had heard him reciting Shakespeare at work, in his own unique way, and were keen to see him turned loose amidst professional actors.

'When the great night arrived,' McGonagall wrote in his diary, 'my shopmates were in high glee with the hope of getting a Shakespearian treat from me. And I can assure you, without boasting, they were not disappointed.'

When he appeared on stage, he was received with a perfect storm of applause. When he uttered his first line – 'So foul and fair a day I have not seen' – there was a deafening ovation. The high spot came in the final scene, when Macduffis supposed to kill Macbeth in a sword fight. Unwisely, the actor playing Macduff told McGonagall to 'cut it short'. Suspecting that the actor was jealous of the acclaim he was receiving, McGonagall refused to die. A new ending to 'Macbeth' seemed imminent.

'I continued the combat until he was fairly exhausted, and there was one old gentleman in the audience cried out: "Well done, McGonagall! Walk into him!" And so I did until he (Macduff) was in great rage, and stamped his foot, and cried out "Fool! why don't you fall?" And when I did fall, the cry was "McGonagall! McGonagall! Bring him out! Bring him out!" Until I had to come out and receive an ovation from the audience.'