

# *Never Stop Dancing*

AND OTHER STORIES TO ENTERTAIN  
AND INSPIRE



Stephen D. Boyd

*This is a collection of humorous or inspiring anecdotes collected over 50 years of speaking in public.*

## **Never Stop Dancing** **and other stories to entertain and inspire**

Compiled by Stephen D. Boyd  
Edited by Lanita Bradley Boyd

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## **Dedication**

I dedicate this book to my wife, Lanita Bradley Boyd, who has edited and proofread every story in this volume. She has patiently listened as I have practiced these stories at the dinner table or in the car driving to a speaking engagement or at a church service. She is always encouraging and positive, yet gives me great input on how a story can be improved with a different word choice, or a longer pause, or a different way of beginning or ending. She has been in many of my audiences and has heard me tell some of the stories scores of times, yet she acts like she is hearing them for the first time. For all of this and her continued support of my life, I salute her!



## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Class Attendance**

A professor talking about class attendance said that he had no illusions that attending his class was essential to get "A's" in his course, but he did think it would help.

That reminded me of the story of a student who attended just the first class of the semester and did not show up again until the final exam. She scored 95% on the exam.

The professor was shocked because he knew she hadn't come to class all semester. He wrote "See me" on the cover of the exam. After the exams were passed back and the class was over, the student approached the professor and said, "You wanted to see me about my exam?"

The professor responded, "Yes. How did you get a 95 on that exam?"

The student answered, "Well, it would have been 100, but I went to your first class and got confused."

## **Being Presidential**

The shortest presidency was that of William Henry Harrison who was elected in 1840. He delivered the longest inaugural address of any president—nearly two hours long. Unfortunately, he was not dressed for the cold and rain of March and came down with a cold. He became progressively ill and died on April 4, 1841. His presidency lasted only 30 days.

\*\*\*

You might say he talked himself to death! One of the great inaugural speeches was by President John F. Kennedy, and it was 14 minutes long.

A week before his death, Kennedy visited the Cape, where the first stage of the Saturn rocket, the moon launcher, was in place. He stood beneath the monster, rocking back on his heels, and fell silent for a long minute. Even then, off to the side, his aides were arguing about how to land on the moon.

But Kennedy was beyond the engineers and accountants. And he put his vision in words just the day before he died.

"Frank O'Connor, the Irish writer," he said, "tells in one of his books how, as a boy, he and his friends would make their way across the countryside, and when they came to an orchard wall that seemed too high and too doubtful to try and too difficult to permit their voyage to continue, they took off their hats and tossed them over the wall, and then they had no choice but to follow them. This nation has tossed its cap over the wall of space, and we have no choice but to follow it."

\*\*\*

Lincoln spoke for two minutes at Gettysburg and gave one of the greatest speeches of all time. Edward Everett, the

featured speaker and great orator of the period, spoke two hours and most people don't even remember his name.

After the speech, Everett remarked to Lincoln, "I should be glad I could flatter myself that I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes."

\*\*\*

President Franklin Roosevelt was convinced people did not pay attention. To avoid the boredom social gatherings created, in receiving lines he would say to people as they met, "Hello. I murdered my mother-in-law this morning."

Most people would respond, "Glad to meet you, Mr. President."

Except for one person, a diplomat. Because he was paying attention, his response was, "Mr. President, I'm sure she had it coming to her."

We told Glenda, "Look, it wasn't a total loss. When you go to visit the class they will recognize you the minute you smile."

## **Cuckoo Clock**

A couple of teenage boys were talking about how difficult it was to get along with their parents. One said to the other, "I got in really late last night and tried to tiptoe in but my dad heard me.

He said, 'What time is it?'

"I answered, 'Oh, it's just 12 o'clock.' About that time the cuckoo clock cuckooed three times."

"Oh, no! What did you do then?" the friend asked.

He answered, "I stood there and cuckooed nine times more."

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