The Sam & Jesse Radio Show

Week 23, Episode 5: Leon Don’t Know a Renoir from a Jaguar

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| 00:00 | Sam | He don’t know a Renoir from a jaguar. |
| 00:03 |  | [music] |
| 00:10 | Narrator | [over music] It’s time now for another day in the life of Sam and Jesse, Gum Springs, Arkansas. |
| 00:24 |  | [music fades out, then repeats] |
| 00:35 | Sam | Aye, Leon! Here comes ole Percy Smooth-lips. |
| 00:37 | Leon | He sure is peculiar ole mailman, ain’t he, Sam? |
| 00:40 | Sam | Yeah, that’s cause he’s a poet, Leon. [door slams] H-hey there, Percy! Got any mail for us? |
| 00:46 | Percy | Good afternoon, Samuel and Leon. Here’s your, uh, mail. |
| 00:51 | Sam | Let me see now. Hmmm. Mercy! I didn’t get nothin’ but this month’s issue of Dairy Goat Journal. Seem like nothin’ good ever happens to me anymore. Just bills and bad news. |
| 01:03 | Percy | Be not dismayed, Samuel. As the poet says, “Tis nobler in the mind to suffer these slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, than to take arms against a sea of troubles.“ |
| 01:16 | Leon | Slangs and arrows? Sam, you ain’t been stuck by no arrow, have you? [overlap] |
| 01:20 | Sam | [overlap] Well, nah, Leon. I-I been stuck in every other way from b-by everybody from the Federal Government to the Society for the Protection of Armadillos. But I ain’t been shot by no arrow, but it’s just a matter of time. |
| 01:34 | Percy | I-I was merely speaking poetically, Samuel. “Man does not live by bread alone.” |
| 01:40 | Leon | Nah, sir. H-he’s got to have some twinkies and a Mr. Pibb [inaudible]. [overlap] |
| 01:44 | Sam | [overlap] Now, that’s right, Leon. You show me a feller tryin’ live on poetry, and I’ll show you a candidate for food stamps. |
| 01:50 | Percy | But [inaudible] but what of the spirit of man? The soul? You can’t feed the soul of man with [harmony?] and black-eyed peas. |
| 01:59 | Sam | Well, maybe not, Percy. But-but, you ever try sendin’ a poem to pay your light bill instead of money? Just see what happens. They- [overlap] |
| 02:05 | Percy | [overlap] Well, well, that’s not exactly the same thing. |
| 02:09 | Leon | Well, I know one painter that made money. O-ole [Tysee’s?] middle boy. Uh-uh, th-the one named Paul Moore. Uh, he painted tables and signs and restrooms for the recreation department at the state park. |
| 02:22 | Sam | Well, now paintin’ signs and restrooms is respectable, Leon, but paintin’ pictures and writin’ poems, now that ain’t helpin’ nobody. |
| 02:29 | Percy | Oh, I take it then that you feel that technological advances are more worthy than artistic achievement.  |
| 02:36 | Sam | Well, now you can’t eat a paintin’. |
| 02:38 | Leon | Well, I-I ain’t never tried, but-  |
| 02:41 | Percy | Did I ask you, Samuel, are you thrilled over the invention of the nuclear bomb and its ability to kill millions of people?  |
| 02:49 | Sam | Well, that particular invention ain’t turned out so good. [inaudible overlap]  |
| 02:52 | Percy | There are pesticides. Pesticides, now. Does it please you to read that DDT now being found in Mother’s milk? |
| 03:02 | Leon | Doggone. I-I didn’t know that. I-I’m gone have to be more careful. |
| 03:06 | Percy | I-is it a source of pleasure to you to find out that the advanced technical masterpiece, the automobile, destroys fifty thousand human lives each year? [overlap] |
| 03:16 | Sam | [overlap] Now, just a daggum minute here, Percy Smooth Lips. Now, maybe there’s a few things wrong with all these here inventions, but that don’t prove poetry’s good. |
| 03:25 | Percy | Well, not all poetry, of course, but-but do you know a poem that begins thusly, “The Lord is my Sheppard”? |
| 03:32 | Sam | What?! Wh-why that ain’t no poem! |
| 03:35 | Leon | Well, nah. That’s part of the Bible. |
| 03:37 | Percy | It is a poem. Written by a very fine poet named David. As a matter of fact, a large portion of the Bible was written in the form of poetry. The book of Job, Proverbs, and much more. |
| 03:50 | Sam | Well, ain’t this a pretty come off? |
| 03:53 | Percy | Sam, let me ask you. Would you rather have the invention of uh say the motorcycle or the twenty third Psalm if you had to choose? |
| 04:01 | Sam | Well, I’m gonna have to talk to Jesse about that. Daggum-it, Percy! Why’d you come in here with all this stuff? You done made me think. [music overlap] |
| 04:08 |  | [music] |
| 04:17 |  | [music fades out, then repeats] |
| 04:27 | Sam | Romeo! Romeo! Well, where are you, Romeo? |
| 04:30 | Leon | Well, h-he ain’t been in here, Sam. |
| 04:32 | Jesse | Sam! What in the world are you bellowin’ about? [overlap] |
| 04:34 | Sam | [overlap] Oh, oh, hello there, Jesse. I-I’m readin’ poetry here. Now, me and Leon’s decided that maybe poetry ain’t bad as we thought. |
| 04:41 | Jesse | Leon!? [chuckles] Why, Sam, he don’t know a Renoir from a jaguar! |
| 04:45 | Sam | Well, he can learn. Now, we decided we gone spend lots of time ‘round here with-with poetry and all that stuff. |
| 04:51 | Jesse | Oh, i-is that right? Well, who’s gonna pump gas while you’re doin’ all this, now? |
| 04:55 | Sam | Pu-Pump. We-well, now we wanna get cultured, now. [overlap] |
| 04:58 | Jesse | [overlap] Well, there’s a time for that, but I-I seen too many folks gettin’ cultured while the weeds took the garden. Now, culture, Sam, ain’t no legitimate excuse for lettin’ ya’ gas go unpumped. |
| 05:09 | Sam | Say, that sounds good to me, now, Jesse. Now, now say that again. Maybe I can write a poem about that. Uh, anything sounds better if you put it in a poem. Now, let’s see. There was, uh, this man from [inaudible]. [music overlaps] |
| 05:19 |  | [music] |