

MY WILD AUNT BETTY BOOP BUSH

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‘Writer’s Corner’

When I was a kid, they asked us every morning at school if we had proper hygiene. We had to explain if and why not we brushed our teeth, combed our hair and washed behind our ears.

Seeing an opportunity to spread her influence throughout the community, Ma Haney nagged our teacher to add a question. On Monday morning, Mrs. Draper asked every child if they went to church on Sunday. If they didn’t, the reason for the absence was requested. A report was made and given to Ma Haney who passed it on to her husband and he incorporated it into his message the next Sunday morning.

Those of the kids whose parents chose not to send them to Pa’s church or the strange kid whose grandma took him to the “sinner’s church” as Ma Haney called it on Saturday in Cookeville were made to feel guilty and not normal by the other kids.

The practice were on for years until Ma Haney’s granddaughter started the first grade. This was Aunt Betty’s girl. I called her Aunt Boop because she was uppity like the cartoon character she was named for.

One particular Monday morning, my little cousin said “No” when asked if she attended church on Sunday. After much pressure, she finally blurted out, “Daddy got made about mommy’s boyfriend!”

Ma Haney was furious at this turn of events. There was no sermon at the church on that Sunday regarding children missing church. The only good thing was we were never asked again if we attended church on Sunday at school on Monday morning.

*Read more ‘Writer’s Corner’ at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>