Supplement
to
Rural Dialect of Grant County, Indiana, in the 'Nineties
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Making this concession to the law declaring all obscene, indecent, and immoral things nonavailable, the writer wishes to comment upon this moronic legislation. It proscribes all articles or things designed to prevent conception. This is regulation of another age, one that we had a right to hope had ended in civilized lands. Those who oppose birth control are to that extent, at least, allied in spirit to the international bandits who brought on the present world war.

The act further childishly includes as "indecent", matter of a character tending to incite arson, murder, or assassination, as if the meaning of a word could be changed by statute.

As to what is obscene, indecent, and immoral, opinions differ. Circumstances alter cases. What a judge personally believes may be important. Court decisions under the law clearly show that intent has been given great weight. These things being true, consistent findings and, therefore, justice under the law are impossible. Obscenity, indecency, immorality, are not subject to exact definition. Immorality, certainly, and the others in only slightly lesser degree, denote that which is contrary to custom. Customs change and, in consequence, static law becomes meaningless. Basically, the legislation referred to is a manifestation of human hypocrisy. Knowledge that is widespread, language that is universal, are taboo, or so the law contends. What a farce!

In further hypocrisy, while banning obscenity from the mails, we actually allow the mailing of works that contain much which is classed as that commodity. The Bible, for instance, steady best seller, with organizations established to distribute it, is sent through the mails with the thorough approval of the government. Probably with lesser approval, but still accepted as mailable, are the works of Boccacio, Shakespeare, Rabelais, Balzac, and Zola, not to mention those of living authors, in which so-called obscenity is not hard to find. Where draw the line? Who is to draw it? What respect can we have for it?

There is such a thing as serious, scholarly study of these theoretically forbidden matters. There can be discussion of the supposedly worst words (choose what one may) that will not descend below the level of purposeful and dignified etymological and ethnological investigation. For such studies raw material in the form of recorded dialects is essential, and the words which some assure us that the public can not tolerate, should be included as an integral part of language. Moreover those who speak of public distaste in this direction are mistaken as the words involved are of the public.
Even the ugliest of the so-called unprintable Anglo-Saxon monosyllables are known to every person in the land, yet we pretend that people can not endure the sight of them. If there is any term descriptive of intensely sublimated and unbelievably fantastic hypocrisy, it applies with full force to this phase of human narrowness.

**Glossary**

"accidents will happen in the best of families", saying, referring to unexpected pregnancy. Charles Dickens in David Copperfield has it, "accidents will occur in the best regulated families.

*alter, v., castrate. Dial. U. S.*

*ass, n., buttocks, but also the ass-hole or anus, as in the elegant retort, “Suck my _______.” The word also applied to the female pudendum (see under “piece”). It is of course a corruption of the English "arse", a term having homologues in several languages of northwestern Europe and traceable also to Armenian and Greek.*

*ass-backwards, adv., extravagance for backwards. We seldom or never used “backward” (i.e. without the “s”).*  

*ass end foremost, adv. phr., backwards; a more polite version was “hind end foremost”.*

*ass end to, adv. phr., with the breech advanced; backwards*  

*ass over appetite (applecart or endways), adv. phr., head over heels*  

*ass-sucker, n., bootlicker, toady. T.*

*baby-shit yaller, adj. phr., pale yellow as of the article specified*  

*backhouse, n., privy. A rather general usage*  

*backsides, n., buttocks*  

*bag, n., scrotum*  

*ballocks, n. Dictionary gives testicles, Obs. except vulgar. It came as a surprise to me when I first learned the accepted spelling of this term. We spelled it bollix and pronounced it bahlux, thereby using one of the few ah sounds in our vocabulary. The word meant scrotum and testicles together, not the latter alone. Grose (1785, p. 37) has bollocks. The “x” words discussed in the main glossary, perhaps have their prototype here. “All boluxed up” meant thoroughly messed, mishandled, spoiled*  

*balls, n., testicles.*

*barry, n., a castrated male hog. Dict. has “barrow”*  

*barackwards, adv., euphemism for ass-backwards, meaning merely backwards. “You’re doin’ that jes _______.”*  

*be-, prefix, used chiefly in such terms as bepiss and beshit to worsen the condemnation; applied almost exclusively to messy things. (See main glossary); “He beshit himself”, “He was all bespissed”*  

*behind, n., buttocks. Dict. notes Vulgar*  

*beely-button, n., navel*  

*Billy-de-damned, n. phr., a standard of unpleasant comparison, as in “hotter than —______”; used with a great variety of adjectives, as, colder, tighter, onrier*  

*bitch, n., a female dog; also in vilification, a woman. Latter Vulgar N. I. D.*  

*bottom, n., buttocks*  

*box, n., female pudendum*  

*break leg above knee, v. phr., copulate with, as evidenced by pregnancy; “She broke her leg above the knee with ________.”*  

*break looking glass, v. phr., euphemism for “break the ass”, but meaning bang rather than break. In an icy time or during skating one would not be surprised by the warning “Watch out you’ll break your looking glass”*  

*bubby, n., woman’s teat. N. I. D. says “now vulgar”*  

*bugger (rhyming with sugar), v., copulate per anno. T.*  

*“built like a brick shithouse”, description, especially of a heavy woman built solidly and close to the ground. T.*  

*bullin’, v., said of a cow in heat, and of her antics, as riding other cattle butt, n., buttocks. Now chiefly dial. caught with one’s pants down, v. phr., taken at a disadvantage, unarmed, unprepared*  

*chamber, n., chamber pot, “thunder-mug”*  

*chippy, n., prostitute. T.*  

*chippy-chaser, n., one addicted to whoring. T.*  

*coak, n., applied to both the female pudendum and the male penis. Also meant the “deed of kind”, as in “plenty of good T.”*  

*cock-sucker, n. Could be of either sex operating on either sex. Also, used as a term of reproimation not to be understood literally. T.*  

*“cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey,” saying meaning unusually cold. T.*  

*concern, n., the female pudendum*  

*cover, v., said of the male’s part in copulation, usually of animals*  

*cow-dung, n., cow dung in the original pile. (Va.)*  

*cow-flop, n., same as the preceding*  

*crab, crab louse, n., the pubic louse. T.*  

*crabby, adj., infested by “crabs”. T.*
cram, v., to fuck a woman; perhaps in many instances an overopti-
mistic term. T.
crap, n., feces. T.
crap, v., take a crap, v. phr., defecate. T.
“crawl in my hole and take my hole with me”, also said of others,
escape a disagreeable situation; the latter part of the ex-
pression has a double meaning, intensifying the act of hid-
ing, but also giving a humorous effect by referring to the
ass-hole
erowd, v., same as cram. T.
crumby, adj., dirty, but specifically of the sexual organs, “a ———
old cock”. T.
cunt, n., the female pudendum. A universal term; why excluded from
the dictionaries?
cut, v., castrate
cut the foot, v. phr., step in dung. (Md., Va.)
damn sight”, “not by a, adv. phr., not at all. T.
dick, n., penis. T.
diddle, v., copulate. (D. C.) N. I. D. has “jog up and down”, Colloq.
and Dial. T.
dink, n., penis, especially the small one of a boy; “his little ———
dirty, v., to beshit one’s clothing. (Vs)
dirty, adj., shitty; “——— didies”
do a job, do one’s business, v. phr., defecate
“don’t know his ass from a hole in the ground”, saying meaning he is
very stupid
dose, n., attack of venereal disease, usually the clap or gonorrhea.
(Kans.) T.
dream off, v. phr., have an emission of semen while asleep. T.
dump, v., take a dump, v. phr., defecate. T.
“every little bit helps, said the old woman as she pissed in the sea”
fart, n., breaking of wind, and v. to break wind or emit gas from the
anus, accompanied by sound. See “slidet”. Still a silent one,
detected by the nose, would have been called a ———
fen with a brick, v. phr., strike with a thrown brick. T.
fancy woman, n. phr., prostitute. T.
fart in hell, n. phr., very little; “I wouldn’t give a ——— for
his chances”
luck did you have?”, was, “Fisherman’s luck, a wet ass,
and a hungry gut”
frig, v., copulate. Grose (1785) defines this as to masturbate, tracing
it to the Spanish word, fregor, to harm. On the other
hand it is well to remember that Frigg was a Norse
goddess supposed to preside over marriage. Frig, simply,
according to N. I. D., means to wiggle. Etymology, it would
seem, is a puzzling study

fry, n., used in the plural, lamb fries, meant lamb’s testicles, either
fresh or prepared for eating. T.
fuck, v. and n., the most common term for copulation.
gillflirt, n., a heartless wanton. Dict. notes archaic, and synonymizes
it with flirtgill, Obs. I heard it used by a factory worker
from the East and it is recorded from southern Illinois.
Grose, 1785, defined it as “a proud minx, a vain capricious
woman”. T.
gism, n., a semen (chism, chissum, Va., Greene). The first letter had
a hard sound and I would have entered the word as jism
except for the following precedents. Clapin (A new dic-
tionary of Americanisms, 1907, p. 204) defines gism as
energy, spirit, deriving it from Dutch Geest, i.e. German
Geist. Dialect Notes (b(10), July 1935, p. 453) gives
as equivalents, strength, talent, genius, ability (“spunk”) and
records the following comments. In various parts of the
South gism has the meaning “gravy” or “cream sauce”.
In the North it is commonly used to mean “se-
men”. In Maine and Eastern New England the word is
pronounced chism. [End of comment.] Relation with
christ, sacramental ointment, is fascinating to contemplate
The connection with spunk is obvious; youths were warned
that for every drop expended they lost that much of their
heart’s blood. A bawdy song represented a child as re-
proaching a father for having spurted gravy in its face
while in utero. This comes round to the Southern usage
cited. It is just possible that the word is what laymen
assimilated from the term orgasm heard from doctors

“God only knows and he won’t tell”, meant, don’t ask me. T.
go down on, v. phr., said of mumps when they affected the testicles. T.
go out, v. phr., go to the privy; “Teacher, may I ———?”
goose, v. According to my experience, none of the explanations of this
term seen in print are accurate. It means specifically to
poke in the anus, an action usually accompanied by a
lip-sucking sound. Does the N. I. D. comment apply in
a way so recondite as scarcely to be recognized? “South-
ern U. S. To attack in the manner of a goose, that is,
with a poke of the head and a hiss”. The usage is, how-
ever, universal. T.
goosey, adj., susceptible to goosing. I have noted individuals who,
when goosed, jumped in the air and squealed like a horse.
Some were so responsive as to shy at a gesture made with
upcocked thumb. This, suggesting a priapus, indicates a
possible connection with buggery. T.
grannies, n., menses
granny, n., rump, ass; “Aw yer ——”, exclamation of disagreement or disbelief

gun, n., penis; get one’s gun off, have an ejaculation. T.
half-assed, adj., imperfect, unsatisfactory; “That’s a ______ way of doing it”

hard-on, n., erection of the penis

head-cheese, n., cheesy matter collecting under the prepuce behind the glans of the penis. T.

hind-end, n., buttocks

hit the hole, v. phr., in negative expressions as, “I can’t seem to ______”, or “Can’t you ______?”, about fumbling with a key or tool, the allusion being to copulation

hockey, n., human excrement; v., to defecate. (Cf. kakke, Ger.; caca Port.). This identical term recorded from Missouri; hawk (Southern Ill.); cackie, cackey, cockey (Kans.); cacky (Va.). In the East, remembrance of our usage prevented me from taking kindly to the term hockey for the sport, which we called shinny

horse’s-ass, n., an undesirable citizen, a fool. Euphemised in directional expressions, as “the north end of a horse going south”

horse-, n., horsey, v., applied to a mare in heat.

hang, v., said of dogs in copulation that must await subsidence of the enlarged penis before they can separate

jack off ( jerk off too, I believe), v. phr., masturbate. In the sex-ridden Bucktown, adolescents held jack-off parties. “Come to the foam” was an inciting cry. Stallions and bulls successfully masturbated by muscular action of the penis, and geldings dreamed and tried

jerk a knot in one’s tail, v. phr., threat of condign punishment for doing, or failing to do, the thing in view. In this view, a flavor of cowboy parlance, but with us language was traceable far more to the East and South than to the West.

kiss my ass, v. phr., insulting retort signifying noncompliance; also meant about the same as “go to hell”. See Signs

knock up, v. phr., make pregnant

line, v., to fuck a female, used of both men and animals; probably refers to the discharge of semen

madam, n., the head woman of a bawdy house. T.

make water, v. phr., to urinate

mink”, “fuck like a phr., with the senses of enthusiastically, endur-ingly, intensively. Greene, recording the comparison from Virginia, associates it with minx, a wanton wench. The pioneers, however, were more likely to have had the fur animal in mind. That it has a special reputation in this respect is shown by the French Canadian name. fonteur (fucker), cited by John Richardson (Arctic Searching Expedition, 1, 1851, p. 109)

monthies, n., menses

morfadite, morfadike, n., variants of hermaphrodite. T.
movement, n., evacuation of bowels

nuts, n., testicles

obishaki, n., privy. Is this a Russian word? My father, who used it, had tried homesteading in North Dakota. T.

outhouse, n., privy

pecker, n., the most common word for penis. Two definitions of this word are worth citing: “an instrument for pecking”; and “spirits, courage”. Does the Scotch saying, “Keep your pecker up”, have a double meaning?

pecker poker, n., game of poker in which losers had to submit their peckers to blows with “hands” of cards; unscrupulous players would snatch half a deck for the purpose, thus playing too rough. T.

pee, v., make water, the word among children and females or, for politeness by men, in mixed company. (Southeast)

peter, n., penis

piddle, v., pee

piece, n., bout of copulation; also more fully “a ——— of ass, cock, or skin”, “take a ———”, v. phr., copulate. T.

pig’s ass, in a, prep. phr., not at all; “Yes you will, ———.”

pig’s eye, n., euphemistic name for the very prevalent symbol for the female pudendum, an upright diamond with a longitudinal slit in the middle. “In a pig’s eye” was used by some in preference to the preceding saying, but to those conscious of the yoni sign the improvement seemed hardly noticeable

piss, v., urinate; Dict. says now vulgar. A saying, “When one dog pisses they all have too”, recognized the communication of the urge in a group of boys, or even of men. Another saying was, “When you grow up to be a man, you can ——— hard on the ground”

piss-ant, n., the usual term for ant. Obs. Exc. Dial.
piss-ellum, n., the slippery elm (Ulmus fulva). In connection with a Kansas record of the term, we are told that, “When burnt green the sap steams out and hisses”

play pocket pool, v. phr., manipulate the balls, or genitalia in general, by the hands thrust into the pockets. T.

play with one’s self, v. phr., masturbate. T.

polish it in the corner, phr., a catch for the inexperienced, especially for little girls by naughty boys. If they repeated the phrase quickly, as suggested, the effect was surprising

pooch, v., to break wind; also to defecate

prick, n., penis

“proud as a stud horse”, simile

puckering string, n. phr., anal sphincter; “Hold onto the ———” was an urge to make every effort to postpone defecation until reaching a suitable place.
pussy, n., female pudendum
put blocks (ballocks?) to, v. phr., copulate. T.
"red as a baby's ass", simile
ridgman (from original? cf. ridgling), n., man or animal in which the testicles have not descended into the scrotum; a cryptorchid. (Ill., Kans., Ohio)
"runnin' off at the bowels", v. phr., diarrhoea
sarchin', adj., searching. In a discussion of the merits of various bum-fodders, the oldtimer plumed for cornsobs at the most "sarchin'

screw, v., copulate. (Grose 1785)
see aunt, grandmother, Mrs. Jones, and probably other females, phr., go to privy
seed, n., semen
seeds, n., testicles
settin'-down place, n. phr., buttocks
sewed-up, adj., pregnant
sheath, n., the covering into which the penis of a stallion or other animal is retracted
shit, n., feces, also used as v., adj., and interj., in addition to its normal functions, this terse Anglo-Saxonism served as a swearing word. "Oh——!") was a very common expression of disappointment, for which, conceivably, "Oh pshaw!" is a euphemism
shitass, n., a person inferior to the speaker, one who is disreputable, untrustworthy, contemptible
shithouse, n., privy
shit muckle dun, adj., sheer exuberance for dun, the color of a horse. Muckle-dun, "rat"-colored, Vigo County, Indiana. (O., W. Hasley, 1906)
shits, n., diarrhoea
"shiverin' like a dog shittin' bones", simile
Signs. Tickling the palm of a girl's hand with one's forefinger was an invitation to copulation. A forefinger thrust through a ring made with the index finger and thumb of the other hand, and worked appropriately, signified copulation. The universal gesture of thumb on nose and twiddling fingers, meant "kiss my ass"

skin off my ass", "It's no, saying, meaning "it's of no consequence to me", "it's none of my business". T.
skin the prick, v. phr., pulling back the foreskin (prepuce) and exposing the head (glans). T.
slider, n., a breaking of wind without sound. There was a tale of a boy cautioned about farting at table and told to let them slide out. His first trial resulted in a turd, which he pulled out and exhibited, saying, "Here's one of your sliders"

slut, n., female dog; also a woman one wished to disparage
"smooth as a baby's ass", simile
snatch, n., female pudendum. (Va.)
song of a bitch, n., term of reproach or condemnation, used very freely without consciousness of its literal significance. Really meant, it was a fighting word and among boys, at least, provoked a scrap when all other insults had failed
squirt, n., diarrhoea
star boarder, n., one who did not pay, usually tolerated, it was assumed, because he was a lover of the landlady or her daughter. T. A popular song was:
"Oh you must be a lover of the Lord
If you want to go to Heaven when you die;
And you must be a lover of the landlady's daughter,
If you want to get a second piece of pie"

stone-ache, n., pain in the testicles caused by prolonged but unsatisfied sexual excitement
stones, n., testicles
suck off, v. phr., produce orgasm by buccal or lingual action. It is worth noting that in a series of several phrases in this glossary, the word "off" implies ejaculation. T.

swallow, "She's got something in her she never swallowed," saying meaning, "she is pregnant"
sweat. "If he was dyin' of thirst (or roasin' in hell), I wouldn't give him the sweat off my balls," saying expressing extreme deprecation or hatred. T.
tack, n., penis, especially of a child. Past middle life, an individual came to my notice who was named Peter Tack, both designations, in our vocabulary, meaning penis. He would have had a difficult time socially in the rural population of my youth. "Let me introduce Peter Tack". I can hear them snort now
tail, n., female pudendum; "a piece of ———", "some ———", butt of copulation; spit-tail, a woman, especially a loose one. T.
taken short, v. phr., descriptive of the bowels moving right now, allowing no time to find cover
tend to business, v. phr., defecate
ting, n., female pudendum or male penis. "So they put their things together and went to housekeeping"
three axe handles across the ass (or butt), phr., referring to women of the type Washington Irving described as "broad in the poof". Heard from my grandfather, so it was a pioneer expression.
thunder-mug, n., chamber pot (Ala., Va.)
"tight as a little bull's ass goin' uphill", phr., meaning far from tight, the usual fresh grass diet and the down sloping posture, contributing to considerable leakage
toe-jam, n., viscid dirt collecting between the toes of shod, but unwashed feet. Cognate is a test for the need of sock washing: when thrown against the wall, if they stick, they should go to the wash.

tool, n., penis

touch-hole, n., anus

tread, v., to copulate with a female, used for poultry and other birds

tumble-turd, n., tumble-bug, a beetle, especially of the genus Canthon, that rolls up balls of dung, in which the eggs are laid.
	
turd, n., solid feces; also applied to persons as a term of contempt

turpentine, v., apply turpentine to the anus or genitals of a dog, cruel treatment that sends the animal wildly off across country.

u p, up, catch phr. Girls were teased by asking them if they could spell “up”; if they did they were laughed at

upset one’s applecart, v. phr., send arsy-versy; spoil plans

wet dream, n. phr., one of sexual activity in which discharge of semen occurs. Not restricted to men; a pug dog was observed to have one. T.