

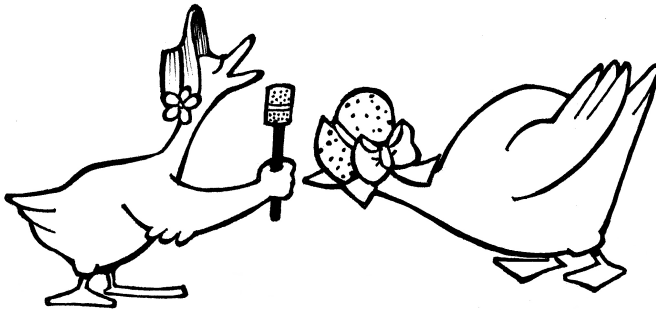
The  
**Mother Goose**  
Interviews

A Collection of plays and skits  
based on Mother Goose Rhymes



**By Otto Cleveland**

**A collection of plays and skits  
Based on Mother Goose Rhymes**



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# **A list of The Interviews**

<b>Little Bow Peep</b>	<b>Mary, Mary Quite Contrary</b>
<b>Jill of The Hill</b>	<b>Jack of The Hill</b>
<b>Miss Muffet</b>	<b>Saint Ives</b>
<b>Polly Flinders</b>	<b>Jack Spratt</b>
<b>Georgy Porgey</b>	<b>Mother Goose</b>
<b>Pussy Cat</b>	<b>Tom the Piper's son</b>

**A special thanks to my friend Dave Thorne for drawings and encouragement.**

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## Preface

This book is a collection of scripts about Mother Goose characters. I have been writing these for a number of years but only recently put them in a book.

They were written originally for the stage as short sketches then later adapted for video.

The premise is a Newscaster goes to Mother Goose Land and interviews nursery rhyme characters.

The sketches should work well for any group that wants to put on a short, lively play. Because of the numerous sketches the overall play can be made short or long to fill the time allowed.

I got the idea from a Johnny Stanley record called "It's in the book.". Johnny Stanley did "Little Bow Peep.". I simply enlarged the idea to more Mother Goose rhymes.

I thank Johnny Stanley for the idea.

Yours truly

Otto Cleveland

## **Introduction to The Mother Goose Interviews**

I've taken out most of the stage direction because I feel that the director can adapt to fit the venue.

The scripts have an Announcer with the microphone waiting for characters to walk by. I suggest that the director give him or her a name.

I used Announcer, Interviewer and Newscaster interchangeably in the different skits, I hope it is not confusing.

If the Newscaster is a woman some changes will be necessary where the script indicates the Newscaster is a man. See the Flinders story where the Newscaster asks for girls to kiss him.

Little Bow Peep is intended to be the first skit because it introduces the reason the Newscaster is in Mother Goose Land. In the first skit the Newscaster is not happy about being assigned to Mother Goose Land but as the interviews go on warms up.

Costumes are a minimum. One costume for the females and one for the males with a change of hats or props.

The Newscaster should be pretty standard, a male with a tie, a short sleeve shirt should do because most of Mother Goose Land is in the summer. A female Newscaster should be typical of female Newscasters dress.

Most of the props should probably be kept. For example the Silver Bell on a stick in the Little Maid sketch is a necessary detail and the Maid should shake and ring it often.

The background could be kept for all the skits because the Newscaster can stand still as the characters walk by.

Because some skits refer to other skits the director should be careful not to eliminate a skit that depends on another. An example are the numerous skits that refer to “little Maids Standing in a Row”.

All in all I think it should be fun and I am planning a video of all the skits and maybe a Power Point Presentation.

I've tried to lay out the book so no dialog of one character would require a page turn. Also I chose ring binding so the book could be held in one hand or laid flat.

Otto Cleveland

# LITTLE BOW PEEP

"An interview"

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Interviewer:

I am here in Mother Goose Land. I understand that a tragedy has taken place, Little Bow Peep has lost her sheep. I will try to get her to come to the microphone and tell us about this tragedy. Oh, Miss Peep, Miss Peep.

Bow Peep Enters stage right.

Girl dressed with big Bow with a shepherds staff comes into scene.

Interviewer:

Miss Peep will you talk to us for a minute?

Bow Peep:

(Bow Peep looks into camera)

Am I going to be on TV?

Interviewer:

Miss Peep I understand you've lost your sheep.



Bow Peep:

Don't be so formal, you don't have to call me Miss Peep.

Interviewer:

OK, Do you want me to call you Bow ?

Bow Peep:

Of course not! My name is Little Bow, my father was Native American, so it is an Indian name.

Interviewer:

OK, Little Bow, Would you like to tell the TV audience about your lost sheep.

Bow Peep (crying)

Boo,Hoo, I've lost my sheep.

Interviewer:

Yes I know that, but what will you do?(turns to camera) What will she do?

Bow Peep: (still crying)

I've lost my sheep, and I don't know where to find them.

Interviewer:

Have you looked in the meadow, maybe they are with Little Boy Blue's sheep, if he hasn't blown his horn.

Bow Peep: (still crying)

I've lost my sheep, and I don't know where to find them.

Interviewer: (questioning)

I know you lost your sheep, and I figured you don't know where to find them, if you knew where to find them they wouldn't be lost, would they?

Bow Peep (Crying)

If you are going to make fun of me I won't talk to you. (she turns to leave)

Interviewer:

No, no, please don't leave, I was just trying to make your tragedy clear to the audience, maybe they can help you find your sheep.

Bow Peep:

(turns to face the camera and smiles)

Well, OK , but be nice.

interviewer:

Thank you, I'll be nice. Now Little Bow tell our audience what you will do about your lost sheep, that you can't find. (turns to camera and rolls eyes) What will she do?

Bow Peep: (crying again)

I've lost my sheep, and I don't know where to find them....

Interviewer: (interrupting)

Yes, yes I know, but (looks into camera) What will she do?

Bow Peep:

I will leave them alone.

Interviewer: (perplexed)

Leave them alone? If you lost them, and you can't find them, you'll have to leave them alone won't you?

Bow Peep: (pouting)

You're being mean again. I didn't write this stuff, you know.

Interviewer:

Sorry, but it does seem to be a just little bit redundant. So you lost you sheep, and you don't know where to find them, and you are going to leave them alone, do you really think this is the best course of action? What do you think will happen if you just leave them alone?

Bow Peep:

They will come home, of course.

Interviewer:

They will come home? How do you know?

Bow Peep:

They always do. They will come home, a wagging their tails behind them.

Interviewer: (louder)

They always do? Has this happened before?

Bow Peep:

It happens every day, except on Sunday, that's my day off. It's in my contract. I have to do it once a day, everyday.

Interviewer:

Thank you Little Bow, it was a interesting story. (Little Bow walks away) : (into the camera) You saw it here, the story of Little Bow Peep, she lost her sheep and didn't know where to find them. So she is leaving them alone and they will come home, a wagging their tails behind them. Not much of a tragedy.

CONTRARY

"Interview of Little Maid:"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND -DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Interviewer:

I'm still here in Mother Goose land. Let's see if we can find someone else to talk to. (Looks off camera to the right). Oh, Miss, would you talk to me for a minute?

A girl dressed in standard Mother Goose dress with a small straw hat with a ribbon. She comes into camera range and looks at camera. She is carrying a small bell on a stick.

Little Maid:

Sure, I've got a minute to talk, before I go and stand in a row.

Interviewer:

Could you tell us your name?

Little Maid:

I don't have a name.

Interviewer:

That's unusual isn't it, not having a name?

Little Maid:

Yes, I guess it is unusual. I work with Mary, and she is so contrary. She has a name, so I don't need one.

Interviewer:

Just what is it you do for Mary?

Little Maid:

With Mary, With Mary, I don't work for Mary, I work with Mary, at least that's the way it is supposed to be, but she's so contrary.

Interviewer:

OK, I understand, Mary is contrary. BUT what do you do?

Little Maid:

Don't you know the story? I'm a Little Maid: and I stand in a row. Mary is so contrary.

Interviewer:

I think I remember the story, but why don't you tell it to the TV audience.

(Mutters) Mary, Mary, quite contrary...

Little Maid:

Well, Mary grows a garden with silver bells (shakes bell) and cockle shells. And has Little Maids standing in a row. I'm one of those maids, actually I'm the main maid, the one in charge.

Interviewer:

I would think that Mary would be in charge, after all it is her garden.

Little Maid:

She should be in charge, but she's not, She's too contrary, if she were in charge the garden would never grow.

Interviewer:

I guess it would be a problem growing a garden if Mary is contrary, negative people are hard to work with.

Little Maid:

Mary is not negative, Mary is contrary. The garden is not the problem, we can't GROW silver bells, (rings bell) and Cockle Shells, who knows what cockle shells are? We plant anything and tell people they're cockle shells, if anyone asks. (rings bell, waves it around) I just stick this in the ground and we have a garden of silver bells.

Interviewer:

There is only one silver bell in the garden? Not much of a garden.

Little Maid:

Don't be silly, this is a replacement, a tourist stepped on one of the silver bells yesterday and I have to replace it.

Interviewer:

I can see how replacing the silver bells could be a problem, does it happen often?

Little Maid:

Much too often, if you ask me. I don't mind stopping at the store and buying the bells, but it is hard getting Mary to give me my money back, she's so contrary.

Interviewer:

You said the garden was not the problem, what is the biggest problem?

Little Maid:

You mean besides Mary? She's so contrary.

Interviewer:

Yes, I mean besides Mary, what is your biggest problem?

Little Maid:

It's the maids.. as the name implies, they are supposed to be pure. That's the problem.

Interviewer:

Is it a big problem?

Little Maid:

Is it a big problem? Are you kidding? I can't stand in a row all by myself, can I?

Interviewer:

I guess not. How many maids do you need?

Little Maid:

I've had as many as ten, NOW, that was really standing in a row. We can get by with as few as three, kinda a short row but what can we do the girls keep disqualifying themselves. I don't understand it, it is such a good job for them all they have to do is stand in a row. But of course there is Mary, she's so contrary.

Interviewer:

Yes, Yes I know, Mary is contrary. How many maids do you have today?

Little Maid:

I HAD four, but one of the maids got a job as Jill and went up the hill with Jack, you know why she went up the hill don't you? She disqualified herself with Jack.

Interviewer:

Are you sure? Maybe nothing happened.

Little Maid:

Nothing happened? Get real, she fell down the hill and hurt herself. She has a bruise on her forehead that can't be covered with a hat, she can't stand in a row like that can she? Especially with Mary being so contrary.

Interviewer:

I guess not, not with a bruise on her forehead. Does that mean you are only going to have three maids standing in row today?

Little Maid:

I'm going to try and find another maid, maybe one of the "Old lady that lives in a shoe" has a daughter or two that would like to stand in a row.

Interviewer:

Or maybe Miss Muffet could help it would be a better job than being chased by a spider.

Little Maid:

I've asked her before she won't stand in a row, she SITS on a tuffet. And she didn't want to work with Mary, she's so....

Interviewer:



(interrupting) yes I know Mary is so contrary. Well I wish you luck finding a maid to stand with you, it does seem like a easy job.

Little Maid:

(looking at camera) Any Little Maid: out there that would like to stand in a row, call me at one, eight hundred...

Interviewer:

(interrupting) Hey, hey.. I can't let you advertise here, sorry.

Little Maid:

(pouting) Hmmm. (walks off)

Interviewer:

(looks into camera) Did you know that it was such a problem finding Little Maids to stand in a row? Do you think it could be Mary? She's so contrary.

# JILL OF THE HILL

"An interview"

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Interviewer:

I am still here in Mother Goose Land. Let's see if I can get someone to come to the microphone. Oh, Miss, Oh Miss. Do you have a minute, please?

Girl with bandage on her head comes from stage left.

Jill:

Yes? May I help you?

Interviewer:

Could I ask your name?

Jill:

Jill, My name is Jill.

Interviewer:

You have a bandage on your head could you tell us what happened?

Jill:

I went up the hill with Jack. Supposedly, to fetch a pail of water.

Interviewer:

Oh, Let's see if I can remember the rhyme? Jack and Jill went up the hill to fetch a pail of water, Jack fell down and. . .

Jill:

Jack didn't just fall down, I hit him! It wasn't water he was after.

Interviewer:

Would you tell us about it?

Jill:

As I said, it wasn't water he was after. When we got up the hill there was no well, I should have been suspicious when he wanted me to go up a hill, wells are not usually up a hill, I mean really, how stupid could I have been?

Interviewer:

Then what happened?

Jill:

He took me behind a tree and propositioned me! What kind of girl does he think I am?

Interviewer:

Propositioned you? Did he really? Wow, this is getting interesting! But maybe we shouldn't go into too much detail, this is the family hour.

Jill:

It's not what you think, he wanted me to audition for another part, Little Miss Muffet. He said that Miss Muffet was going to stand in a row for Contrary Mary. Standing in a row is a good job for any girl and Miss Muffet could do both, stand in a row and sit on a tuffet, I know I can, but he said if she went and stood in a row he would try to replace her. So I hit him, Miss Muffet is a friend of mine, so I hit him!

Interviewer:

Uh huh, I don't understand, is Jack a recruiter for the parts in Mother Goose Land?

Jill:

No, not a recruiter, but he is my agent, well, he was my agent but after the incident on the hill I think I'll find another agent.

Interviewer:

Can we get back to the story? Then what happened?

Jill:

Well, when he fell down the hill and he grabbed my hand and took me with him. I still had the bucket in my hand so I hit him with it that's how he broke his crown.

Interviewer:

It looks like you got banged up a bit too, how did that happen?

Jill:

I'm not sure, it's a big hill, maybe he hit me with his bucket. All I know is because of this (points at bandage) I can't stand in a row for Contrary Mary, and that's a good gig.

Interviewer:

Maybe when you heal...

Jill:

If I comb my hair into a curl in the middle of my forehead I could get the job of the little girl that is good and horrid.

Interviewer:

Hmm... let's see if I remember that... There was a little girl with a curl in the middle of her forehead.....

Jill:

When she was good she was very, very good and when she was bad she was horrid.... I kinda like that horrid part, I've got to go audition, bye now.

Interviewer:

So Jill didn't go up the hill for water. If she knew that a well wasn't up the hill, why did she go? Maybe she is not telling us the whole truth, maybe Jack is not at fault in this story. Tune in tomorrow I may interview Jack.

# JACK OF THE HILL

"An interview"

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Announcer:

I'm here in Mother Goose Land. I just had a talk with Jill who went up the hill with Jack. She said they didn't go after water. Maybe we can get Jack's story from Jack himself. A young man limps by. His head is bandaged and he is carrying a bucket.

Announcer:

Excuse me sir, would you talk to us for a minute?

Jack:

OK, I need a little rest anyway.

Announcer:

You look like Jack from "Up the hill to fetch a pail of water." Are you that Jack?

Jack:

That's me. I went up the hill with Jill and she hit me! I fell down and broke my crown.

Announcer:

Jill told us her side of the story, we'd like to hear yours. She said she thought you hit her with a bucket.

Jack:

I didn't hit her, she hit me! I'm sure she told you I invited her up the hill to fetch a pail of water. It was a ruse to get her alone. She should have known that there are no wells on the top of hills.

Announcer:

Jill said you took her behind a tree and propositioned her, is that what happened?

Jack:

Almost, I took her up the hill and behind the tree to offer her a proposal. Little Miss Muffet was going to take the job standing in a row for Contrary Mary. So I asked Jill if she would like to take over sitting on a tuffet. I knew she wasn't afraid of spiders so it would give her a chance to show her acting skills. I thought it was a reasonable offer. She got mad, she said she was planning to stand in a row for Contrary Mary, Miss Muffet was a friend of hers, she could sit on a tuffet and stand in a row. Geesh, all I was trying to do was get her a job. Anyway she hit me with her bucket and we fell down the hill.

Announcer:

Jill told us that, she's still pretty angry because she has a bruise on her forehead and can't stand in a row with the little maids in Mary's Garden.

Jack:

She's angry? How about me? I broke my crown and hurt my leg. I was going to jump over a candlestick but with the hurt leg I can barely walk much less jump. I lost a job too, she didn't have to hit me.

Announcer:

All in all taking Jill up the hill was not such a good idea, was it?

Jack:

Humff!

Limps off in a huff.

Announcer:

We have now heard both sides of the Jack and Jill went up the hill story, what do you think?





MISS MUFFET

"An interview"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Announcer:

I'm back in Mother Goose Land again. I'll wait here to see if some one comes by.

A girl comes by with a pillow under her arm.

Announcer:

Hello, Miss, would you talk with me a minute?

Girl:

OK, I guess, but I've been warned about you.

Announcer:

Really? What kind of warning? What did I do?

Girl:

Little Bow Peep said you were mean to her, Jill said you asked her why she went up the hill for water when she knew wells were not on hills, and Polly Flinders said you kissed her. Don't be mean to me or try to kiss me or I'm outta here!

Announcer:

I can't defend myself to you. Could you tell us your name?

Girl:

I'm Miss Muffet. You know the story don't you?

Announcer:

Hmm, Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, is that the one?

Miss Muffet

Yes, that's the one. I sit on a Tuffet eating curds and whey, have you ever eaten curds and whey?

Announcer:

I can't say that I have, I don't even know what curds and whey are. And I'm not sure what a tuffet is either.

Miss Muffet:

Let me tell you curds and whey taste bad unless you put sugar or honey on them, they are horrible.

Announcer:

Is that why you wanted to stand in a row with Mary and her maids?

Miss Muffet:

Oh, you heard about that? I would have liked to stand in a row, being chased by a spider is not much fun, I'm not frightened any more but I have to run away anyway. I could both stand in a row and sit on the tuffet. I don't have to eat curds and whey if I stand in a row, I don't have to eat anything.

Announcer: (changing the subject)

Is that a tuffet under your arm? (points at pillow.)

Miss Muffet:

No that is a pillow. Tuffets are so hard I need a pillow to sit on them.

Announcer:

I thought a tuffet was a pillow.

Miss Muffet:

Most people think that because they don't look it up in the dictionary.

Announcer:

I'll have to look it up. It's not that important now. Jack of up the hill fame tried to replace your sitting on the tuffet with Jill who went up the hill with him.

Miss Muffet:

Jill is a friend of mine she told me what happened. Jack deserved to get hit, too bad about Jill not being able to stand in a row though. So I'm going to stand in a row today. When Jill gets better we can stand in a row together.

Announcer:

Standing in a row does sound like a good job, except for Contrary Mary.

Miss Muffet:

The Main Maid is nice though except she is so frustrated by Contrary Mary.

Announcer:

The Main Maid told me she has a hard time getting and keeping maids standing in a row because of Contrary Mary.

Miss Muffet:

She complains a lot but she is really nice or I wouldn't be standing in a row today. I've got to be going.

Announcer:

Are you leaving to stand in a row?

Miss Muffet: Leaving

First I have to sit on a tuffet, then I stand in a row.

Announcer:

It looks like the Main Maid will get enough maids to stand in a row today.

Announcer:

There is a lot of drama in Mother Goose Land. I will be back tomorrow with another compelling interview.



SAINT IVES

"An interview"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Newscaster stands with microphone in hand.

Man walks by.

Newscaster:

Pardon me Sir? Please Sir, would you talk for a minute?

Man:

OK, for just a minute, I'm on my way to Saint Ives.

Newscaster:

Hmm, let me see if I remember the story. As I was going to Saint Ives, is that the one?

Man:

Yeah, that's the one. I'm on my way to Saint Ives.

Newscaster:

Can I assume that you go to Saint Ives every day like the others? Little Bow Peep loses her sheep every day.

Man:

No, I only go to Saint Ives three times a week it's a long walk to Saint Ives. I tried to get Mother Goose to allow me and the people I meet to drive a car but she wouldn't hear of it. What difference would it make? We could meet at a truck stop or a rest stop or someplace and they could still have all the things with them.

Newscaster:

The man has seven wives it would be difficult to get them all in a car.

Man:

They could use a van, a van can hold nine people and a big van can hold more. But Mother Goose wouldn't go for it so we have to walk.

Newscaster:

Maybe Mother Goose would go for horses or a mule?

Man:

I tried that too. Mother Goose said Kits, Cats, Sacks, Wives and Horses just doesn't sound right I agree with her, besides if the Wives rode horses the guy would have to ride one too, so and it would be seven Kits, Cats, Sacks, and Wives and eight horses. She said maybe we could cut the numbers to five, that could help. I didn't want to put anyone out of work so I said I didn't like that idea, but I kinda did.

Newscaster:

Maybe after their long walk from Saint Ives some of the wives would like to stand in a row with Mary and the Little Maids. The Main Maid is looking for some maids to stand in line.



Man:

I think they've been asked before, but I'll ask again. I wonder what they would do with the Kits, Cats and Sacks while they stand in a row? I've got to start walking, so bye now.

Newscaster:

So long, ask the man and his wives to stop and talk with me when they get here.



## POLLY FLINDERS

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND -DAY

Scene 1: Announcer stands with microphone in hand.

Announcer:

I'm still here in Mother Goose land. It seems that I've been here for a long time. I'm going to try to attract the attention of another Mother Goose character. (Looks off camera to the left).

A girl dressed in standard dress with a white hat with a ribbon. She comes to the microphone uninvited.

Polly:

Well, I do have just a few minute to talk.

Announcer:

Could you tell us your name?

Polly:

Do you know that you are all the talk of the neighborhood? Some of us want to be on TV. And others are trying to avoid you.

Announcer:

I have that kind of affect on people. What is your name?

Polly:

My name is Polly, Polly Flinders.

Announcer:

OK, Miss Polly Flanders, tell us about yourself.

Polly:

That's Flinders, not Flanders. I'm in the book as Little Polly Flinders.

Announcer:

Little Polly Flinders, I don't think I've read that in Mother Goose.

Polly:

Its not a well known rhyme. And it's a tough part, most girls don't want to be Little Polly Flinders. And I don't either!

Announcer:

If you don't want the gig why did you take it?

Polly:

I could have taken The Girl In The Lane but I didn't want to Gobble, Gobble, Gobble. And then I'd have to deal with the man on the hill that can't stand still.

Announcer:

Little Girl In The Lane? I don't think I've ever heard that one either. Just what is it that Polly Flinders does?

Polly:

The book says I sit in the cinders and warm my pretty toes. Get it? Flinders, Cinders they rhyme!

I dirty my dress sitting in the cinders. Then my mother whips me, not really, but that is the story.

Announcer:

I can understand why you don't like the Flinders job. What other jobs did you try?

Polly:

“Polly Put The Kettle On” is a better known story but I couldn't get that one, it is a simple one, but I couldn't get it.

Announcer:

Do you know that the main Little Maid is looking for maids to stand in a row?

Polly:

I did that once, Mary is so contrary, I'd rather sit in the cinders.

Announcer:

I understand that Mary is hard to work with.

Polly:

Most girls like to be in Georgy Porgy's story, you know that one where he kisses the girls?

Announcer:

Georgy Porgy? Isn't he the one that made the girls cry?

Polly:

Georgy Porgy KISSES the girls, KISSES the girls and then the story says they cry. But really the girls want to be kissed and they cry because it's in the script. Then the boys come out to play and Georgy Porgy runs away. He runs away to be with the girls and keeps on kissing, that is a story all the girls want to be in. Girls will be Girls.

Announcer;

Sounds like a good story for Georgy too.

Polly:

It is a good story alright, everybody has fun. I guess I'd better go sit in the cinders.

Announcer:

Good bye, it was nice talking to you. If you see any of those girls from the Georgy Porgy story send them here and I'll kiss them.

Polly:

You can kiss me. (Polly extends her cheek to announcer, he kisses her).

Announcer:

I'm beginning to like this Mother Goose Land more and more.



JACK SPRATT

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND -DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand.

Interviewer:

Here we are again in Mother Goose Land. I'll see if I can find someone to talk to.

Very skinny man walks by, turns to Interviewer and says:

Have you seen my wife?

Interviewer:

I'm sorry sir I don't know what your wife looks like.

Skinny man:

She's very fat.

Interviewer:

Do you really think you should call your wife fat?

Skinny man:

Why not? She is fat, very fat! She is obese!

(He looks at microphone in Interviewers hand and at camera:)

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know you were filming something.



Interviewer:

That's OK I was trying to find someone to interview, would you talk to me?

Skinny Man:

Yeah, Yeah OK. Maybe my wife will walk by.

Interviewer:

Would you tell us your name please?

Skinny Man:

Jack, Jack Spratt.

Interviewer:

Of course, (Mumbles) Jack Spratt could eat no fat, his wife could eat....

Jack Spratt:

Yeah, Yeah, that's me. Jack Spratt the guy with the fat wife.

Interviewer:

Was she always fat or was she different when you married her?

Jack Spratt:

Married her? I didn't marry her I got this gig because I was skinny and to keep it I have to stay skinny.

Interviewer:

But you said she was your wife.

Jack Spratt:

That's for the tourists and the book. It's a pretty good part all I have to do is not eat fat, just lean and watch my wife eat fat, and no lean it's a good gig. If I gain weight I'll lose my job but maybe I could pick up another job like Jack be Nimble all he does is jump over a candle stick, Maybe I'm a little old for that job though, you think?

Interviewer:

Maybe you are a little old for too much jumping but a candle stick is not a big jump , if the candle is lit you could get burned. (Quickly changing the subject). Why are you looking for your wife?

Jack Spratt:

They're about to open the house for tours and we have to go and eat, me lean and her fat. We have to look like man and wife and lick the platter clean.. It's a pretty good gig.

Interviewer:

At least you get plenty to eat even if it is not fattening.

Jack Spratt:

Oh, yeah! it's a good job. If you see my wife tell her to come home and eat. (Leaves stage right).

Interviewer:

OK, I'll tell her, if I see her. Well, that was interesting. Let's see if we can find another interview.

A very fat lady walks up to the interviewer:

Mrs. Spratt:

Have you seen my Husband?

Interviewer:

You must be Mrs. Spratt.

Mrs. Spratt:

Why do you say that? Is it because I'm fat?

Interviewer:

No, no, it's because your Husband was just here looking for you.

Mrs. Spratt:

Did he say I was fat?

Interviewer:

As a matter of fact he did say you were overweight.

Mrs. Spratt:

It's all his fault! I wouldn't be fat if it wasn't for him.

Interviewer:

Really? How is that?

Mrs Spratt:

Well, I auditioned for a part in Mother Goose Land and they needed a Mrs. Spratt and I was a little overweight and they asked me if I wanted the job, temporarily. I needed the job so I took it. But all I could eat was fat and I gained weight, a lot of weight, as you see me now. Now I don't qualify for any other job in Mother Goose Land. If it wasn't for him needing a wife I wouldn't be here. But it is a good job. All we do is eat. I would really like to stand in a row, but I'm too fat.

Interviewer:

He says he got the job because he was skinny. So I guess it worked out for each of you. He went that way. (Pointing his finger). He said to come home and eat.

Mrs. Spratt:

I guess I better go home now.  
(Leaves stage right.)

Interviewer:

That was interesting. Jack Spratt and his wife.

GEORGY PORGEY

"An interview"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Newscaster stands with microphone in hand.  
Young man skips by smiling and softly singing.

Newscaster:  
Please sir will you talk with me?

Georgy:  
Sure, What can I do for you? (Giggles)(continues softly  
singing) (Big smile)

Newscaster:  
You seem to be very happy, could you tell us your  
name?

Georgy:  
My name is Georgy, why shouldn't I be happy?

Newscaster:  
Georgy? Of Georgy Porgy?

Georgy:  
Yeah, that's me Georgy Porgy pudding and pie. I kissed  
the girls, so I'm happy, why not?

Newscaster:

Why not? Indeed. Kissing girls can make anybody happy.

Georgy:

The book says I make the girls cry. So the girls follow the script and cry, they are good actresses.

Newscaster:

Little Polly Flinders told me she wants to be in your story. How are the decisions made who gets what story?

Georgy:

Mother Goose is in charge but she allows the main character in each story to make decisions on who works where. Only if there is a conflict does Mother Goose decide. In my case she limits the number of girls that are in my story. I'd like more but Mother Goose says she needs girls in other stories if she didn't limit the girls in my story there would be no girls for other stories, or so she says.

Newscaster:

I can understand that, girls like to kiss, boys too, for that matter, but there are no stories where the girls kiss the boys, are there?

Georgy:

Gee, I don't know ,when I was given this part I thought I wouldn't like it because I made the girls cry. But the girls don't really cry they just try to follow the script and act like they're crying and then we run away and keep on kissing, I love my part in the story.

Newscaster:

Little Polly Flinders said when the boys come out to play the girls run away with you. That sounds like a real good story.

Georgy:

I'd like to stay and talk to you but, I've got some girl kissing to do.

Newscaster:

I'm sorry I held you up for so long. You must be very busy.

Georgy walks away singing and smiling





PUSY CAT PUSSY CAT

"An interview"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with microphone in hand. Young girl walks up to interviewer.

Girl:

Have you seen my pussy cat?

Interviewer:

Sorry, no I haven't seen a cat. What does it look like maybe if it walks by I could catch it and hold it for you.

Girl:

It's nice of you to offer but I need my Pussy Cat for my job.

Interviewer:

Your job? What Rhyme are you doing?

Girl:

I have to interview the Pussy Cat, like your job, I guess. You do interviews don't you?

Interviewer:

Yeah, but I never interviewed a cat.

Girl:

Not just a cat, a Pussy Cat that went to London.

Interviewer:

Let me see if I remember the story? Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat where have ....

Girl: (Interrupting)

Yes, Yes, That's the one! I've got to find my Pussy Cat!

Interviewer:

Why not wait here for a few minutes? The Pussy Cat will probably come by, almost everybody else does. And I can interview you.

Girl:

I don't have a lot to say. I just need my Pussy Cat to do the rhyme.

Interviewer:

What is your name?

Girl:

I really don't have a name, but I have been Joan and Polly. Why don't you call me Polly?

Interviewer:

OK, I'll do that, Miss Polly.

You say you interview a Pussy Cat that went to London? That seems like an easy job.

Polly:

Oh, it's an easy job alright. But I have to do it every day and some time the pussy cat doesn't want to do her part, like today. That's why I have to look for her. My first job was the best job, I was with Georgy Porgy. That was a good job.

Interviewer:

I understand Georgy is a good kisser.

Polly:

Is he ever..whee that was a good job. But Mother Goose said Georgy had too many girls so she sent me to stand in a row with Contrary Mary.

Interviewer:

I'm told that is a good job too.

Polly:

Oh, yeah that is a good job all you need to do is stand in a row. The Main Maid is nice but Contrary Mary is really hard to work with. So when this job came along I took it.

Interviewer:

When you interview the pussy cat does it talk back to you?

Polly:

Of course not! Pussy cats can't talk..

Interviewer:

I know that cats can't talk in the real world but here in Mother Goose Land I thought.., it is a strange place. So if the cat can't talk how do you interview it?

Polly:

If there are tourists around I do all the lines. I act like I'm listening to the Pussy Cat and then repeat what she is supposed have said. If a tourist asks questions I say I can understand and speak pussy cat. I don't get many questions, as you said Mother Goose Land is a strange place so people will believe almost anything.

Interviewer:

I know I'm starting to believe anything. Really a man with seven wives going to Saint Ives? Seven wives.. I don't think so.

Polly:

You didn't get it did you? The man was coming from Saint Ives, not going to. Thats the riddle.

Interviewer:

I confess, I didn't think of that. How many are going to Saint Ives? One! Hey, thank you.

Polly:

I guess the Pussy Cat is not coming after all. I'll just grab any cat I see and do the scene. I'll be alright if it will sit still long enough for the bit. I've got to go, see ya.

Interviewer:

Are you sure you can't talk for a few more minutes?

Polly:

Do you really think a cat will come by? I really need a cat.

Interviewer:

I can't be certain but just as much chance here as anywhere else. Everybody comes by here.

Polly:

You are an attraction you know, everyone is talking about you.

Interviewer:

So you'll stay for a little while longer?

Polly:

No, sorry. I gotta go.

Interviewer:

That is all for today. This is your reporter signing off from Mother Goose Land.



TOM THE PIPER'S SON

"An interview"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Interviewer stands with  
microphone in hand.

Interviewer:

Mother Goose Land is an interesting place there is a lot going  
on.

A boy runs into the scene.

Interviewer:

Hey! Hang on there whats your hurry?

Boy:

I'm going to steal a pig. (stops) But I'll talk to you.

Interviewer:

Thank you. What is your name?

Boy:

I'm Tom the Piper's son.

Interviewer:

Let's see, I know that rhyme, I think. Tom Tom the Piper's son stole a pig and ....

Tom: (interrupting)

That's the one. I've got to steal a pig. That's the story. Then I run away.

Interviewer:

There's more to the story than that, isn't there? Something about the pig getting eaten.

Tom:

Oh yea, we have a big party. My brother Peter brings Pickled Peppers and we all party.

Interviewer:

Your brother Peter? Is he in a rhyme?

Tom:

Sure, you know the rhyme, Peter Piper picked a peck.....

Interviewer: (Interrupting)

Sure, I know. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. How does he pick pickled peppers? That's the one, huh?

Tom:

(ignoring the question about the pickled peppers)  
You got it! We have a party! We try to get Miss Muffet to bring her curds and whey and we ask Jack Spratt and his wife to come and eat fat and lean. And ask Polly to come put the kettle on and Old Mother Hubbard comes to get her poor dog a bone. We ask everybody.



Interviewer:

Sound like fun. Except for the curds and whey. How about inviting contrary Mary and her maids.?

Tom:

No one has to eat the curds an whey.  
We invite the standing in a row maids but not Mary, she's too contrary.

Interviewer:

So you are trying to expand your guest list to help you eat the pig. Who owns the pig? Will he be invited too? Where do you have your party?

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Tom:

We used to go to The Old woman that lived in a shoe, but the kids got in the way. Today we are going to meet at the house that Jack built, there will be more room.

Interviewer:

There is a lot going at that house with the malt, the rat, the cat, the dog and all the other things.

Tom:

We try to have the party after all that is done. I have to go and steal that pig, so bye.

Interviewer:

The house that Jack built is going to be busier than usual today.

This is your reporter signing off.



# MOTHER GOOSE

"An interview"

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT: MOTHER GOOSE LAND-DAY

Scene 1: Newscaster stands with microphone in hand.

Woman walks up to announcer. (she has goose under her arm).

Mother Goose:

I want to talk to you! (In a scolding voice)

Newscaster:

Of course, that's why I'm here.

Mother Goose:

That's why I want to talk to you! (more scolding)

Newscaster:

Hmm, What did I do?

Mother Goose:

You come here and interview the people in Mother Goose Land and make them uneasy about their circumstances here.

Newscaster:

I didn't know I was causing problems in Mother Goose Land.

Mother Goose:

You can imagine how difficult it is to keep everybody happy. Some sleep, some get chased by spiders, some jump, some fall down, there is so much going on that I have a hard time keeping up with it all. Little Bow Peep is one of the more stable stories. She loses her sheep, she cries and the sheep come home, she doesn't want to change the story or do another one, she's stable. But some of the others want to change their story or do two stories. I've got all these little maids running around trying to find other stories to get in to, most want to go to Georgy Porgy's story but I can't have all the girls there. Then there is Contrary Mary most of the maids don't want to work with her because she is so contrary. The Main Maid does a pretty good job of keeping order there. Then you come along and they want to change their stories.

Newscaster:

Can you really blame me for the problems?

Mother Goose:

I guess not. Right now I have to find two girls for "Polly Put The Kettle On" I'm going to have to take two girls from Georgy, he won't like that but I have to fill all the parts.

Newscaster:

"Polly Put The Kettle On" takes two parts?

Mother Goose:

Polly puts the Kettle on and the Sukey takes it off again, I need two girls for that.

Newscaster:

Maybe you could change the story. Have Polly put the kettle on and take it off.

Mother Goose:

You don't know anything do you? It's suggestions like that that disrupts Mother Goose Land. Maybe I can get Little Jumping Joan to take one of the parts.

Newscaster:

Little Jumping Joan? I've never heard of her, what is her story?

Mother Goose:

Jumping Joan, if nobody's with her she's all alone. It's a short story but has to be done in case the tourists find it in the book.

Newscaster:

I understand what problems you could have because of so many stories to do.

Mother Goose:

The biggest problems are with the long stories, the short stories are easy.

Newscaster:

Long stories? Like what? I can't think of any real long stories.

Mother Goose:

Your Mother didn't read "The House that Jack Built" to you? And then there is the Saint Ives story it's not very long but there are a lot of parts to it. And then there is the Jenny Wren story and Sing a Song of Sixpence. Well it goes on and on.

Newscaster:

Maybe you should have a meeting with all those that play the parts, you could ask them to help or at least cooperate.

Mother Goose:

Hey! There's an Idea! We could all meet at Jack's house, it's his house that requires the most attention with all that goes on there. The malt, the rat, the cat, the dog and the cow too.

Newscaster:

I'd like to come to that meeting, I could interview all the characters!

Mother Goose:

No, No you don't. You've caused enough trouble. You are not invited!

Newscaster:

Well, if I can't go to the meeting could you send one of Georgy Porgy's girls to keep me company?

Mother Goose:

I don't think so. You'll have to go home and read about it.

Mother Goose leaves.

News caster: Looks into camera.

There are a million stories in Mother Goose Land. Tune in again as I expose the inner soul of Mother Goose Land.

**Watch for more  
Mother Goose Interviews  
as I do them.**

**Otto Cleveland**



## About the Author



**Otto Cleveland has been a cartoonist, writer, playwright, videographer in the past and still experiments in the arts.**

**He lives in Pearl City Hawaii with his wife of more than fifty years.**

**He has one son and two grandchildren.**

**The first parts of this book were started more than thirty years ago.**