

A Brief Biographical Sketch of Patrick Lee©

Humorist & Leader-Wannabee

Written by Patrick Lee

The snow was almost seven feet high, so I'm told, piled to the sides of a barren county road in southern Minnesota when I was born in February 1951. Perhaps my baby brain got frostbitten as my farmer father carried me and helped my mother up our long, lonely driveway? That might explain a thing or two.

For only six months could I claim, along with Garrison Keillor, to be a Minnesotan. Then it was off to the south! A few miles south that is, just across the border into northern Iowa. We made up for that short stretch southernward in 1951 by making a really long one in 1956, to southeastern Florida. For three years my father plied the Western Auto retail trade. I learned to swim in the Atlantic Ocean.

At the ripe old age of eight, the farming siren's song overwhelmed my father. My parents returned to the land with a move to southwest Missouri. Farm life never found a resting place in my soul. Too early to rise each day! Too much land to plow and disk! Too much fence to build! Too many weeds to pull! Too much irrigation pipe to move! Too much grain to shovel! Too much hay to stack! Too much livestock to feed! Too many birthing animals to attend at all hours of the night! Too, too much of everything! But I learned to work. It was, and still is, a valuable lesson.

In September 1968, I left farm life far behind (Can I get an "Amen!" somebody?) for the University of Missouri, with dreams of being a math teacher. I traded early morning chores for early morning calculus. I never would have believed it, but I was better at chores than college math! By 1972 and armed with an education degree, I worked in Missouri government four years, then 11 years in a field I'd rather forget.

Bright Ideas!, my freelance marketing and writing business, was born in the late 80s. Several years later, I was recruited by Jefferson City, MO, to portray Thomas Jefferson and welcome conventions to their city, which bears his name. I made my first presentation on May 5, 1990, to the American Diabetes Association. Two more characters and hundreds of presentations later, from Maine to Hawaii, I have found my True Calling!

Along the way, I've been married 37 years and have become father to ten kids. Four were born to us. Three have married in. One more is lined up to marry in. Two more came in the back door. GRANDbabies are now proliferating!

Now, out of all that, I am certainly well-qualified to appear and speak, not as Jefferson or Boone or Clark, but as myself, Patrick Lee, The Hopeful Humorist™. I wrap you in positive stories, jokes, even a song, to make you laugh, feel good about yourself and even better about your country. You will be encouraged to invest in those around you for the good of all. (You will also learn about Spotted Asses, but I can't tell you any more about that just now....)