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Grade School Friends

by **Dick Laurey**

One of my best friends at John F. Hughes grade school was Stevie. He was a natural comedian and made everyone laugh, even the teachers, with his sight gags and impressions of Milton Berle.

Sometimes we would play at his house. We both had Howdy Doody, Mr. Bluster and Dilly Dally marionettes and we would put on little puppet shows. Once, as I approached his house, his Doberman Pincer "Princess" got loose and tore a big hole in the sleeve of my jacket. That was scary, but Stevie's folks paid for a new jacket.

I was invited to dinner once and we had lobster. As an Italian kid, raised on pasta, cheese and veggies, I had never been that close to a lobster before. Even though it looked like a giant bug, it tasted really good.

As time went by, we graduated from grade school in '55. I went to UFA, but Stevie and his family moved out of town. We haven't seen each other since grade school, and I didn't hear anything else about him until years later, after the Wynn family had moved to Las Vegas. I was married and living in North Hollywood, CA. While watching TV one night, all of a sudden there was Stevie doing a commercial for the Golden Nugget Casino!

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