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Carl Stanislaus

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GRANDPARENTS

A MAN OF CHARACTER AND WIT

by *Carl Stanislaus*

Sometimes I look at Grandpa
and wonder if he was ever young.
Is he that boy in the album
sticking out his tongue?

Yes, there between the lines
on his gentle, wrinkled face
is a trace of mirth and mischief
that time cannot erase.

Why do I want to be like him
in a body worse for wear?
Because his stories make me laugh,
and he was youth and vigor there.

Deeper, there's something else,
a man in younger days
who always believed in honesty
and found that hard work pays.

Oh, I guess he has his moments
when he cannot beat despair,
but you can't quell his spirit
because his faith in God is there.

No, I'll never pity Grandpa
because I also want to be
a man of character and wit when I'm
eighty-three.■

CARL STANISLAUS, now retired, lives and writes in Chickasha.